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'This has been ... two years of battling, really'

Halifax regional councillors vote to hold off on closing two sorting facilities at Otter Lake landfill

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Pin campaign in memory of gay rights activist

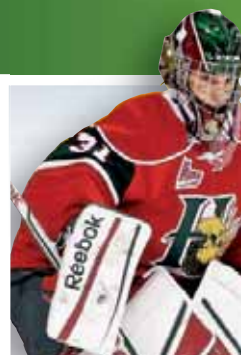
Raymond Taavel's partner raised more than \$3,000 for The Youth Project

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Brutal CIA torture tactics did not aid intelligence: Report

NDP calls for end to information sharing policy with U.S. in light of report

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MOOSE GM MUM ON POSSIBLE MOVES

HALIFAX COULD BE BUYERS, SELLERS OR STAND PAT DURING QMJHL TRADE WINDOW

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THE BIG SQUEEZE

Arie Moyal poses for a photo at the train station in Halifax during a stop in the city on his HugTrain tour. Moyal is travelling across North America ready to give anyone a hug who wants one. Story, page 6. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Development plan panned ... again

'Overpowering.'

Residents still mostly opposed to size and scale of Wellington Street project



RUTH DAVENPORT

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Dozens of residents came to a third public hearing on a development proposed for Wellington Street, imploring councillors to send a message to developers by sticking to the existing rules.

"The consequence of approving this... will have serious repercussions that can't be undone and in fact an approval will be used as a precedent for the next developer," said Wellington Street resident Jennifer van Rooyan Tuesday night.

Dino Capital wants planning regulations amended in order to build two towers of eight and 10 storeys on four lots on Wellington Street.

Quoted

"This development obviously has its problems, but you can't always have the best development that you want."

Development supporter Nathan Corbett

Current planning regulations limit both height and massing at significantly less than the proposed development. It's the second time Dino has submitted plans, but most residents said, even with revisions, the project is just too big.

"The building ... would be monolithic, overpowering and out of scale with the residential neighbourhood," said Oriel MacLellan.

But Robert MacPherson of RMP Consultants told council, on behalf of Dino Capital, the development offers a good transition from two existing towers down to the street's single-family homes.

He said the public has been heard, offering in the closing minutes of the hearing to reduce the project's lot coverage from 75 to 60 per cent and doubling setbacks on three sides.

"We hope that council recognizes the significant compromises brought forth by the applicant to address concerns raised," said MacPherson.

Four residents who spoke in favour of the project cited the need for increased density on the peninsula and the economic benefit to the city's tax base.

Opponents said density could be achieved through developments that comply with planning regulations.

"One of the densest communities in Canada is Plateau Montreal, most of it's three storeys," said Tristan Cleveland of the Our HRM Alliance. "Much more subtle density that maintains what people love about their communities is very much possible and should be encouraged."

Council will debate the development on Jan. 13.



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Black school

Cherry Brook Community Centre spared — for now

A proposal to demolish the Cherry Brook Community Centre has been put on hold so that local residents can figure out if there's any way of saving what was once one of the first black schools in the province.

Deputy mayor Lorelei Nicoll asked regional council Tuesday to defer a decision on demolition of the building at 220 Lake Loon Rd., while the Lake Loon Cherry Brook Development Association reviews a building condition assessment.

"Good work has been done on both sides, but I would really appreciate if they had a conversation together about the actual building assessment," said Nicoll, asking for staff to return to council by March.

The staff proposal calls for demolition of the school and turning the property into a park with a plaque commemorating the site's historical significance.

The building has no heat or electricity and photos show widespread damage to walls, floors and windows.

Some councillors said the building shouldn't be left standing for another three months, citing safety concerns and prior community consultations.

But Nicoll said the association has not had a chance to read and respond to the city's assessment report.

"They have been consulted, but they feel part of the process is missing when it comes to the recommendation coming to council," she said.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO



The Otter Lake landfill is shown in this file photo. A two-year battle over the future of the Otter Lake landfill has come to an end — at least for the next five years. JEFF HARPER/METRO

City, residents reach a truce on landfill fight

Passing the smell test. Otter Lake will remain open for at least another five years



RUTH DAVENPORT
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A two-year battle over the future of the Otter Lake landfill has come to an end — at least for the next five years.

Halifax regional councillors voted Tuesday to hold off on closing two sorting facilities at the landfill, and to hold off on siting a new landfill until March 2019 at the soonest.

The time in between will

Quoted

"This has been a very divisive process, two years of battling, really, and there's been a lot of trust lost within the community."

Waste Management Consultant Ken Donnelly

be spent studying the impact of other changes in the city's waste management system on the landfill in cooperation with the landfill's Community Monitoring Committee (CMC).

"They've made it very clear ... that the CMC and the local community will have a say in all of this stuff," said waste management consultant Ken

Donnelly, who served on the Halifax Resource Waste Society, from which the CMC was derived. "Before, we were trying to beat on the door to get in. Now they've opened it wide and said, 'You're supposed to be in there with us.'"

City staff have spent five months consulting with the Household Waste Recycling Centres on two contentious proposals arising from a review of the city's solid waste management system.

Residents said the proposals to close the front-end processor (FEP) and waste stabilization facility (WSF) at Otter Lake, and to keep the landfill open past 2024, violated the terms of an agreement signed with the city in 1999.

As a result of the consultations, the city will begin testing to determine whether existing cells at the landfill can be raised vertically without affecting the neighbouring community.

The FEP and WSF will also be re-evaluated.

"If you just ask now if the community would allow it, the answer's no," said Donnelly. "But let's go through and do this testing, see if it's feasible to protect the environment and the community, and make these changes and then, if so, ask the question."

Council also voted to hold public consultations on a proposal to allow commercial-sector waste to be shipped out of HRM to other jurisdictions.

1 NEWS

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Taavel's partner leaving legacy

LGBTQ rights.

Darren Lewis's pin campaign raises thousands of dollars

When the partner of Raymond Taavel began noticing posters and signs bearing images of the gay rights activist a few days after his murder, he had an idea.

Darren Lewis knew that the 49-year-old Taavel — respected as a tireless advocate for LGBTQ rights in Halifax and beyond — was becoming an icon for many in the community after he was beaten to death outside Menz & Molly Bar on Gottingen Street on April 17, 2012, while trying to break up a fight.

To preserve Taavel's legacy, Lewis launched a pin campaign this past summer on what would have been Taavel's 52nd birthday.

The small pins show a photo of Taavel, with his quiet smile, superimposed on the rainbow pride flag.

Nearly all 250 pins were sold



Darren Lewis poses for a photo along Barrington Street on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

at Venus Envy on Barrington Street and Alteregos Cafe in the north end for a minimum \$10 donation.

"It just goes to show the effect Raymond had in the community and how many people had quite a bit of respect for

him," Lewis said Tuesday, adding he's comforted every time he sees someone walk by wearing one of Taavel's pins.

This week, Lewis donated the more than \$3,000 raised through the pins to the Youth Project, a non-profit organ-

ization that provides support to people aged 25 and under around issues of sexual identity and orientation.

"It was an organization that Raymond always thought was a really worthwhile effort in the community," Lewis said.

He explained that, as young men, both he and Taavel discussed how much they would have benefitted from having access to a similar organization when they were coming to terms with being gay and started coming out to their friends

Quoted

"We want to remember him for being the tireless advocate for LGBTQ communities." Darren Lewis

and family.

"In this day and age it's really sad that (the Youth Project) is needed, but thank God it's there," said Lewis.

It's no coincidence the timing of the donation occurred the same week Andre Denny — the man charged with second-degree murder in Taavel's killing — is scheduled to appear in court on Thursday.

Watching the case be delayed over and over again has been frustrating for Taavel's loved ones, Lewis said, but he hopes the pins and recent donation will shift the focus away from Taavel's death, to celebrate his life and legacy.

"Out of something tragic there is still good happening in his name," Lewis said.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/FOR METRO

Family seeking money for victim of shooting

The family of one of three people shot in a brazen house shooting in Cole Harbour is now trying to raise money for the 18-year-old girl who has been left paralyzed because of the incident.

A GoFundMe account has been started under the name Beautiful Ashley, in reference to Ashley MacLean Kears, one of the victims of a shooting at 52 Arklow Dr. on the evening of Nov. 30.

According to police, four men who were wearing bandanas forced their way into the two-storey home and opened fire.

The account says the shooting left the 18-year-old paralyzed from the chest down and has put some financial stress on the family.



Ashley MacLean Kears CONTRIBUTED

Not only will family members need to move into a new home, the post says, they also will need money for a new accessible van and upcoming medical costs.

"The smallest donation is appreciated. We would also accept prayers to get this family through the most dif-

ficult time in our lives," the post reads. "Ashley is beautiful, vibrant and brave. Thank you for all of your support."

Over \$10,000 had been raised by Tuesday afternoon, with the post being shared over 1,300 times on Facebook since being started four days ago.

Police have charged four young men with attempted murder and robbery in relation to the shooting, which the RCMP say wasn't random.

"Ashley is such an amazing young lady. Today she said I'm so glad that the people who did this to her are off the streets of Cole Harbour and that people don't have to be afraid any more," the post reads. PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO

Spider Lake

RCMP find missing hikers

Halifax RCMP have found a missing couple who got lost while hiking in the Spider Lake area on Monday evening. Officers reported receiving

a 911 call from two hikers — a 38-year-old man from Cole Harbour and a 37-year-old woman from Halifax — around 7:30 p.m. They had gone for a walk with their dog around 3 p.m. and then gotten lost.

RCMP, along with Halifax's Ground Search and Rescue

and the Halifax Regional Police K-9 unit, began an investigation and found the hikers' car parked at the end of Spider Lake Road.

Officers located the missing hikers, who were in good health, around 10:30 p.m., a few kilometres from their car. METRO

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Embracing his fellow man during the holiday season

Arie Moyal. Montrealer spreads Christmas cheer one hug at a time

STEPHANIE TAYLOR
halifax@metronews.ca

It would be an understatement to call Arie Moyal a hug-gy person.

The 34-year-old Montreal native stopped in Halifax on Tuesday to spread the love with his annual hug campaign, in which he travels around North America for six weeks by train during Christmas time, hugging complete strangers.

Now on his sixth journey, Moyal says many of the random hugs he's given over the years have turned into long-distance friendships.

"People have come up to me over the years and said, 'You don't know how much I need this right now, today of all days,'" he recalled Tuesday afternoon near the Via Rail station in Halifax.

Don't lie

"Sometimes you just want to be squeezed."

Arie Moyal

Love train

If you want a hug, Arie Moyal is departing Halifax by train on Wednesday bound for Toronto.

- He will then head west to Windsor, Edmonton, Winnipeg and down through the United States.

Moyal's hug train began as a test trip six Christmases ago, when the then-marketing and communications consultant decided to give the crazy idea a try.

He never imagined such a wacky scheme would ever turn into tradition, but then tragedy struck. A close friend committed suicide the following year, and so Moyal embarked on the trip for a second season, this time for healing.

Over the years, his annual voyages have been pained with personal hardships, something he believes many people struggle with during the holidays and is the reason people need a little extra joy to raise their spirits.

"It is a difficult time of year. Not everyone has the perfect holidays, and the advertising and the movies remind people of what they don't have. It can



Arie Moyal ready and waiting at the Via Rail train station in Halifax on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

be further isolating," Moyal explained.

To keep the hugs coming year-round, Moyal is developing an app that will allow people to request a hug.

An alert will then be sent to users within a 500-metre radius in hopes that someone will offer up that much-needed squeeze.

Also for the first time, this

year's trip is the subject of a new documentary, which he hopes will be released in the new year.

Not only has his journey lifted the spirits of so many

strangers, it has also taught Moyal himself to find comfort in his own vulnerability.

"I'm not someone who generally goes up to strangers and talks to them," he said.

Halifax cyclists take mission across harbour



A volunteer jots down ideas on how to improve cycling in Dartmouth during the meeting on Tuesday night.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/FOR METRO

One local cycling-advocacy group is crossing the bridge and asking residents how the city can improve biking infrastructure and safety in Dartmouth.

The Halifax Cycling Coalition's Ben Wedge said there are countless opportunities to improve cycling in the Dartmouth core, including many of the same ways downtown Halifax and the peninsula can be made more bike-friendly.

Wedge believes there are numerous advances worth fighting for, such as: building a connected network of protected bike lanes on Wyse Road and Portland Street; adding more bike racks on both ferry terminals; and ensuring that bike lanes are

properly cleared of snow during the winter.

More than 40 residents attended a brainstorming session held by the coalition Tuesday evening at the Alderney Gate Public Library.

Communal understanding

"Building a bike culture that people can relate to is really important."

Halifax Cycling Coalition co-chair Emily Macdonald

With large brown pieces of paper and markers in hand, residents took turns sharing their thoughts on how to improve cycling in and around the downtown area.

Jeremy Gallant travels through Dartmouth by bike

almost daily and says the area needs improved signage, new bike lanes at Dartmouth Crossing and better connections between existing bike paths — which either abruptly end or are interrupted by

pedestrian crosswalks.

"Like, my mom's not gonna get on a bike in Dartmouth.... It's too dangerous. She even says, 'I'm gonna get killed if I bike everyday,'" Gallant said Tuesday.

One of the goals, explained

coalition co-chair Emily Macdonald, is to begin building a stronger bike culture.

"It's about changing how cyclists are perceived: Not just as cyclists, as everyday people ... not just people in spandex you see whizzing by," said Macdonald.

Wedge listed off a number of Dartmouth-centric biking projects the group is tracking.

Redesigning the current approach and decline from the Macdonald Bridge was one of the most-anticipated projects in the crowd. Wedge said it will be further discussed at a consultation between the city and the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission early next year.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/FOR METRO

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Judge to rule on admissibility of paramedic's police video

Sex assault trial.

Defence wants interview with investigators tossed

A judge is expected to decide if a key piece of video footage can be used as evidence in the trial of a paramedic accused of sexual assault later this month.

A voir dire hearing held to determine the admissibility of videotaped statements James Duncan Keats, 49, gave to police following his arrest in May 2013 concluded in Windsor provincial court on Tuesday.

Defence lawyer Chrystal MacAulay argued that the Crown did not successfully prove the statements Keats provided to police were voluntary and the footage should not be submitted as evidence in the trial for this reason.

MacAulay noted Keats' first interview with police lasted about 6-1/2 hours, and the three interviewing officers ignored Keats' multiple requests to exercise his right to remain silent and seek additional advice from a lawyer.

MacAulay contended the police officers had Keats backed into a corner during the lengthy interview, spoke to him in an intimidating

Decision on Dec. 23

Judge Claudine MacDonald is expected to release a decision on the voir dire hearing Dec. 23 at 10 a.m.

manner at times and tuned him out when he tried to maintain his innocence.

Keats repeatedly denied he had sexual contact of any kind with the alleged victim, a 72-year-old Mount Uniacke woman, in the first interview with police.

In a subsequent 1-1/2-hour conversation with the main interviewing officer, however, Keats tells the officer the woman came onto him on the day in question. He alleged she stroked his penis until he ejaculated while she fondled herself.

Keats told the officer he "wasn't strong enough to walk away from that lady," but he did not have sex with her.

MacAulay said the three RCMP officers who interviewed Keats pressured her client to say what he said.

"Trying to be quiet didn't work," MacAulay said.

She added her client assumed he would not get to speak with a lawyer by the time he met with RCMP for the second interview, which took place after Keats' re-



James Keats leaves Windsor provincial court on Sept. 29. HANTS JOURNAL

mand hearing.

Crown attorney Bill Fergusson argued Keats didn't have to provide RCMP with another statement following the remand hearing — he chose to.

Fergusson said the defence should have to provide evidence that shows Keats felt the statement was involuntary by having Keats take the stand to testify personally

about how he felt during his interview with police.

"We don't know what Mr. Keats thought ... because Mr. Keats has never told us," said Fergusson.

Keats is in court in Windsor on two charges of sexual assault and two counts of breach of trust.

The complainant is alleging Keats sexually assaulted her on two separate

occasions when she was a patient in his care — in her home in May 2013, and in the back of an ambulance in September 2012.

The alleged victim, who cannot be identified due to a publication ban, testified Keats forced vaginal sex on her on a date when paramedics were in her home to help her husband recover from a fall. HANTS JOURNAL

Kelly's Mountain. Truro man dead after car plunges to base of 80-foot cliff

A 27-year-old Truro man is dead after his vehicle crashed through a guardrail on Kelly's Mountain and plunged down an embankment.

Victoria County RCMP responded to the incident just before 10 a.m. Tuesday at the St. Ann's lookout on Highway 105, shortly after several motorists came across the crash scene.

"There was a gentleman from P.E.I. travelling up that highway towards Sydney who had simply stopped to enjoy the view and didn't even notice the guardrail missing until two other fellows happened onto the view going in the opposite direction," said Cpl. Scott Williamson of the Richmond County RCMP.

"One fellow was a Scotchtown firefighter and he noticed some branches broken on some trees and then he noticed a guardrail missing, and then they put two and two together and went looking."

The passersby noticed the car, later determined to be a white 2011 Honda Civic, at the bottom of the 80-foot (24-metre) embankment and made their way down to it.

When they found the man dead inside, they immediately phoned 911.

A preliminary investigation has determined that the vehicle left the roadway, crashed through the guardrail, plunged down the cliff and came to rest on its roof.

The exact cause of the crash remains under investigation, though.

RCMP were still trying to get a positive identification of the man early Tuesday afternoon.

They were also trying to determine when the crash occurred. CAPE BRETON POST

Truro. Preliminary hearing ends in double murder case

Publication ban

A publication ban is in place on all evidence provided during the inquiry, which is standard practice for such hearings.

Accused killer Gerald Rushton will learn on Dec. 30 whether he will stand trial for two counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of his common-law wife and her daughter.

That is the day provincial court Judge Warren Zimmer has set for releasing his decision following the conclusion on Tuesday of Rushton's preliminary hearing.

Rushton, 48, is charged with killing Elizabeth MacPherson, 53, and her daughter Brittany, 24, last Dec. 27 in the home the couple shared at 492 Pictou Rd. in Bible Hill.

Police were called to the scene shortly after 3 p.m. that day where they discovered Rushton with self-inflicted injuries, along with the two

women's bodies.

The Crown and defence attorneys made their submissions to Zimmer early Tuesday afternoon after the court heard evidence from an RCMP blood spatter expert, the 21st witness to testify during the preliminary inquiry, which was held during a number of days in October before resuming on Tuesday.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

The deceased

27

The age of the man found dead inside a white 2011 Honda Civic that police say went off Highway 105 at the St. Ann's lookout and down an 80-foot embankment. RCMP were still trying to get a positive identification of the man early Tuesday afternoon.

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Crews begin breaking down South Park YMCA building

Demolition workers start to tear down the former YMCA building on South Park Street on Tuesday. The old facility is being replaced with a new 70,000-square-foot facility that's due to open in 2017. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Bargaining law isn't constitutional: Union

Health Authorities Act. CUPE lawyer says bill that merges health districts and reduces number of units goes against charter values

A law in Nova Scotia that cuts the number of bargaining units for the province's health-care workers is unconstitutional, public sector unions argued Tuesday at the outset of an arbitration hearing.

Susan Coen, a lawyer for the Canadian Union of Public Employees, said the law breaks charter rights that guarantee the right to association.

"The bill is devastating upon the charter values and principles," Coen told arbitrator James Dorsey during the hearing in Halifax.

The lawyer for the Nova



NSGEU members and their supporters protest outside of Province House in April. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Scotia Government and General Employees Union also argued that the law is unnecessary and an effort by the government to interfere with unions.

"The government intends to take workers away from the unions they have chosen," said Drew Plaxton during his submission. "We suggest with

respect that it is contrary to the charter."

The Health Authorities Act merges the number of health districts from 10 to two by April 1. It also created an arbitration process to reduce the number of bargaining units for about 24,000 health workers from 50 to four.

CUPE, which represents

about 4,700 health workers, has argued that the province could achieve its goal of streamlining health care's bargaining structure by creating a bargaining association that would allow union members to remain in their existing units while forming a coalition during labour talks.

But Patrick Saulnier, a lawyer for the health authorities, said CUPE's proposed bargaining association may not even be a legal union under existing labour legislation.

The Nova Scotia Nurses Union stands to gain members under the change in bargaining structure.

The lawyer for that union, which represents 5,166 employees who are covered by the law, said it is best suited to represent registered nurses and licensed practical nurses if Dorsey decides to follow the government's process.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pictou Academy

Man arrested after high school receives firearm threat

RCMP in Pictou say they arrested a suspect after a threat was received by a local high school on Tuesday.

Police say they received a report from Pictou Academy at around 9:20 a.m. that the

school had received a threat involving a firearm.

Officers were dispatched to the school, which was secured as classes continued.

The Mounties say they arrested a 20-year-old man

in the Thorburn area about an hour later.

Police say the suspect was not on school property.

There was no word on whether charges were pending. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Toddler battling rare cancer again

Family hopes he'll be home for Christmas.
Jacob Stern's parents incurring big debt

Jacob Stern is dreaming of a train for Christmas. His grandmother is just praying that he's well enough to play with it — and that he'll be home from the hospital.

Jacob, now almost three years old, was initially diagnosed with a rare form of muscle cancer, rhabdomyosarcoma, when he was 15 months old.

Last January — after a two-month stint in Indiana where Jacob received targeted radiation to shrink a large lump located near his spine — the Centreville family received the news they'd been praying for: Jacob was cancer-free.

With less than a five per cent chance that the cancer



Jacob Stern HANTS JOURNAL

Her worst fears were confirmed — the cancer was back and even more aggressive than before.

This time, the cancer was caught early, so a surgery is planned for Dec. 19 to remove the muscle around the lump, which has grown to the size of a toonie since August.

"It's very rare cancer — very rare, and very aggressive," said Judy.

Jacob is like any other little boy — he loves trucks and watching videos of them on YouTube, camping and playing on the computer. The family is devastated that he now has to battle cancer again and endure a long, complicated surgery.

"It's very, very risky surgery. Knock on wood, everything will go well," Judy said.

If it does — and Jacob remains infection-free — there's a chance he'll be home for Christmas.

HANTS JOURNAL

would reappear, the family gave a sigh of relief.

It didn't last long, however, says his grandmother, Judy Benjamin.

In early November, a bump reappeared. Jacob's mother, Melissa Benjamin, immediately brought him to his pediatrician and he was sent to Halifax for an MRI.



Avenue Q School Edition cast take the stage

Cast members act out a scene from Neptune Theatre's production of Avenue Q School Edition, which runs from Wednesday through Saturday at the Scotiabank Theatre in downtown Halifax. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Ride for Free!

HORSE-DRAWN

FESTIVE

TROLLEY

THURSDAY, DEC. 4 & 11
6:00-9:00 PM

FRIDAY/SATURDAY
DEC. 5, 6, 12, & 13
11:30 AM-3:00 PM

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DOWNTOWN
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Fishing boat takes on water

Four people on a fishing vessel arrived safely in port in the Yarmouth area on Monday evening after their boat had started taking on water.

The vessel's crew put out a mayday call shortly before 5 p.m., while located around 15 nautical miles off shore.

"Joint Rescue Coordination Centre Halifax did send out a search and rescue tasking call. There were aircraft and sea vessels that were sent out," said Capt. Kimberly Lemaire, a spokeswoman for Joint Task Force Atlantic in Halifax.

Aircraft from 405 Squad-

Back in port

The vessel and its crew arrived back in port around 8 p.m. Monday, about three hours after taking on water.

ron at 14 Wing Greenwood and 423 Squadron at 12 Wing Shearwater were among the resources that responded.

"The vessel that actually provided pumps and helped bring the fishing vessel to shore was a civilian boat," Lemaire said. "I don't know

if that was a pleasure craft or another fishing vessel but it was a civilian craft that probably heard the mayday call."

Lemaire wasn't able to provide any specifics about the assistance that was provided.

This wasn't the only potential problem on the water that search and rescue personnel were alerted to on Monday.

Later on Monday there was a call for a flare sighting, seven nautical miles from Digby Neck.

YARMOUTH VANGUARD

Cape Breton

Two men charged with trying to steal legion's furnace oil

Two men charged with attempting to steal furnace oil from a local legion branch made brief court appearances Tuesday.

David Allen MacMullin, 32, of Glace Bay, and Sheldon Christopher MacLean, 29, of Broughton, are both charged with attempted theft of furnace oil from Branch 78, Royal Canadian

Legion, Dominion.

They are also charged with possession of instruments that could be used in a break-in — ratchet sockets, wrench and a flashlight.

MacMullin is also facing three counts of breaching court orders while MacLean is charged with two counts of breach.

The pair was arrested just after midnight on Tuesday after a Cape Breton Regional Police officer happened to be in the area of the legion at the time and came across a theft in

progress.

According to a police release, the patrol officer noticed a vehicle parked alongside the legion and upon further investigation discovered the two men.

There is no report of damage as a result of the attempted theft.

MacLean is now scheduled to have a bail hearing Thursday while MacMullin is scheduled to have a bail hearing Friday.

Both accused are on remand at the Cape Breton Correctional Centre.

CAPE BRETON POST

Apparent murder-suicide. Dance teacher recalls a meeting with slain actress

The former dance teacher of a Vancouver-born actress slain in an apparent murder-suicide says the U.S. television star once reassured her that her fiancé was a nice guy.

Rachael Poirier says she asked Stephanie Moseley about her engagement ring when the actress on VH1's *Hit the Floor* drama series dropped by her old studio in Burnaby, B.C., three years ago.

Poirier recalled the actress asking her not to judge her then-fiancé, rapper Earl Hayes, by his lyrics — which were often violent and degrading to women.

Thirty-year-old Moseley and her 34-year-old husband were both found with gun shot wounds and pronounced dead early Monday at their luxury apartment complex in



In this 2012 file photo, Canadian actress Stephanie Moseley attends a charity event in Los Angeles.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Los Angeles.

A statement from the L.A. Police Department says its initial investigation concludes Hayes shot Moseley and then killed himself.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ISIL. Canada not part of expanded Iraq mission

The federal government says Canada is not part of a group of nations sending an additional 1,500 troops to Iraq to serve as advisers to local forces in their fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

A senior U.S. commander announced this week that unnamed allied nations working alongside the United States had agreed to send the additional personnel to speed training of Iraqi forces.

But a representative for De-

fence Minister Rob Nicholson said Wednesday that Canada was not part of this effort and that for now, the 69 Canadian soldiers currently working in Iraq would be the extent of Canada's contribution to assist ground forces.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced in September that Canada would dispatch a small team of special forces soldiers to help advise Iraq and Kurdish forces in their fights against ISIL.

That was followed by a decision in October to join the coalition air combat campaign striking at Islamic State targets. Six CF-18 fighters, two CP-140 Aurora surveillance aircraft and a CC-150 Polaris air-to-air refueler began operations in the region in October.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Air campaign

Military officials have said the air campaign is only a stopgap until ground forces can be trained and sent into action against ISIL.

Resettling refugees

UNHCR urges Canada to increase commitment to Syrian refugees

A global call for help resettling more than 100,000 Syrian refugees over the next two years must be answered in part by Canada, the United Nations refugee agency representative in Ottawa says.

The latest appeal by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees represents an opportunity,

Furio De Angelis said.

"Canada is a very important country to the UNHCR not only for the support it gives to refugee programs but also for the leadership that it provides in terms of international standards of global protection," De Angelis said.

The UNHCR made a special pitch at meetings in Geneva on Tuesday for countries to help resettle more than 100,000 refugees from the Syrian civil war by 2016.

Though 25 countries made pledges to open more spaces, Canada was not among them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Teen survivor speaks at AFN election in Winnipeg

With the support of her family, Rinelle Harper, second from left, stands after speaking at the Assembly of First Nations Election in Winnipeg on Tuesday. The Manitoba teenager, who was viciously assaulted and left for dead by the side of a river, has added her voice to the call for a national inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women. "I am Rinelle Harper and I am from the Garden Hill First Nation," the 16-year-old said tentatively. "I am here to talk about an end to violence against young (aboriginal) women." The assembly was honouring her with a drumming ceremony at the start of a three-day meeting in Winnipeg.

TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

End sharing of information derived from torture: NDP

Canadian framework criticized. A new U.S. report says that torture does not yield valuable information in fight against terrorism

New Democrat MP Peter Julian said Tuesday the conclusion to be drawn from the American report is simple: Torture doesn't work. However, Julian pointed out, the Canadian government has issued directives to several police and security agencies allowing them to use and share information derived using brutal methods.

The instructions give five federal agencies — the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the RCMP, the military, Canada Border Services and the Communications Security Establishment — the go-ahead to exchange information with a foreign partner even when doing so may give rise to a substantial risk of torture.

The Canadian policy has drawn criticism from human rights advocates and opposition MPs who say it effectively condones torture, violating international law and Canada's United Nations commitments.

The official Opposition pointed to a new U.S. report that discredits torture in renewing a call for the Conservative government to rescind its information-sharing policy.

The long-anticipated U.S. Senate intelligence committee report concludes the Central Intelligence Agency's use of simulated drowning, confinement in small spaces, sleep deprivation and threats of violence against family members did not yield valuable information in the post-9/11 fight against terrorism.

In the House of Commons,

Maher Arar

Maher Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian, was detained in New York in 2002 and shipped overseas by U.S. authorities, ending up in a filthy Damascus prison. Under torture, he gave false confessions about involvement with al-Qaida.

- A federal commission of inquiry, led by Justice Dennis O'Connor, concluded that

flawed information the RCMP handed to the Americans after the 9/11 attacks likely led to Arar's torture.

- O'Connor recommended that information never be provided to a foreign country where there is a credible risk it will cause or contribute to the use of torture.

The federal framework says when there is a "substantial risk" that sending information to — or soliciting information from — a foreign agency would result in torture, the responsible deputy minister or agency head should be consulted.

In deciding what to do, the agency head is supposed to consider factors such as the threat to national security and the

nature and imminence of the threat; the status of Canada's relationship with — and the human rights record of — the foreign agency; and the rationale for believing that sharing the information would lead to torture. THE CANADIAN PRESS

For more on the report from the U.S. Senate intelligence committee, see page 12.

Veterans charter a 'Liberal policy': Harper



Prime Minister Stephen Harper
THE CANADIAN PRESS

The new veterans charter, a marquee deal defended and championed by Stephen Harper's Conservatives since 2006, suddenly became a "Liberal policy" Tuesday as the government weathered more demands for Julian Fantino's resignation.

The veterans affairs minister, who was on his feet con-

stantly during the previous day's question period, rose infrequently on Tuesday in the face of an unrelenting barrage of NDP and Liberal attacks.

Instead, he was defended by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who tried to put some political distance between his government and a class-action lawsuit in B.C. that argues the

charter is unconstitutional and discriminatory against modern veterans.

The charter was conceived and passed by Paul Martin's Liberals with the support of all parties. It was put into force by Harper's Conservatives as one of their first acts after forming a minority government in 2006.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. brutalized suspects for no gain in security: Torture report

CIA director. John Brennan said agency made mistakes and learned from them

The United States brutalized scores of terror suspects with interrogation tactics that turned secret Central Intelligence Agency prisons into chambers of suffering and did nothing to make America safer after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, Senate investigators concluded Tuesday.

The Senate Intelligence Committee's torture report, years in the making, accused the CIA of misleading its political masters about what it was doing with its "black site" captives and deceiving the nation about the effectiveness of its techniques.

The report was the first public accounting of tactics employed after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and it described far harsher actions than had been widely known.

Tactics included confinement to small boxes, weeks of sleep deprivation, simulated drowning, slapping and slamming, and threats to kill, harm or sexually abuse families of the captives.

But the "enhanced interrogation techniques" didn't produce the results that really mattered, the report asserts in its most controversial conclusion. It cites CIA cables, emails and interview transcripts to rebut the central justification for torture — that it thwarted terror plots and saved American lives.

In a statement, CIA Director John Brennan said the agency

Revealed

Six major findings from the newly released summary:

- Interrogation techniques used on terror detainees were ineffective.
- Prison conditions and interrogations were more brutal than the CIA acknowledged.
- Much of the information the CIA provided to the media was inaccurate.
- Two psychologists who had no experience in interrogations or counterterrorism invented the program that was used.
- The CIA actively impeded or avoided congressional oversight.
- CIA officials often gave inaccurate information to the Bush administration.

made mistakes and has learned from them. But he also asserted the coercive techniques "did produce intelligence that helped thwart attack plans, capture terrorists and save lives."

George Tenet, CIA director at the time, said in an interview that the program led to the capture of al-Qaida leaders.

Top Republicans, including Senate leader Mitch McConnell, agreed. But not Democrat Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader. He said, "It got us nothing except a bad name."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., is surrounded by reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday as she leaves the Senate chamber after releasing a report on the CIA's harsh interrogation techniques at secret overseas facilities. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Torture methods

'Enhanced interrogation techniques'

Thirteen interrogation methods are at the centre of the report:

- 1. Abdominal Slap**
Interrogator hits detainee with back of hand.

- 2. Attention Grasp**
Interrogator grabs detainee by the collar.
- 3. Cramped Confinement**
Interrogator puts detainee in a box for up to 18 hours.
- 4. Dietary Manipulation**
Detainee switched from solid foods to liquid.
- 5. The Facial Hold**
Interrogator holds detainee's head so it can't move.
- 6. The Facial Slap**

- 7. Nudity**
Detainee forced to stand nude for prolonged periods.
- 8. Stress Positions**
Detainee forced to hold uncomfortable poses indefinitely.
- 9. Sleep Deprivation**
Detainee kept awake for up to 180 hours, often standing or in a stress position.
- 10. Wall Standing**
Detainee made to stare at wall with arms out, indefinitely.

- 11. Walling**
Interrogator slams detainee against a wall, repeatedly.
- 12. Waterboarding**
Detainee strapped to board or bench, interrogator pours water over face to simulate drowning.
- 13. Water Dousing**
Naked, shackled detainees held down on tarp with cold water poured or hosed over them repeatedly.

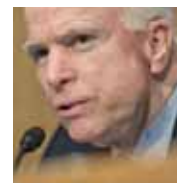
Quoted



"I will continue to use my authority as

president to make sure we never resort to those methods again."

U.S. President Barack Obama



"We gave up much in the expectation

that torture would make us safer. Too much."

Sen. John McCain, who, unlike most of his fellow Republicans, welcomed the report and endorsed its findings



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Amazon. Buyers can make offers below listing price

Amazon wants you to make an offer sellers won't want to refuse.

For the first time, the largest U.S. online retailer is letting some third-party sellers offer an option where interested buyers can make an offer on an item lower than the listed price.

The seller can then accept, counter or reject the offer. The new service comes in the midst of the busy holiday shopping season, which can account for 20 per cent of annual revenues.

About 150,000 of the millions of items for sale on Amazon are eligible for the service, but that will expand to more third-party sellers in 2015. It is not available for the items that Amazon sells directly.

The eligible products are mainly collectibles, including sports and entertainment collectibles such as signed jerseys, posters and helmets, fine art paintings and historical documents.

The service lets "sellers looking to communicate and negotiate directly with customers in an online market-

U.S. Supreme Court

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously Tuesday that warehouse workers who fill orders for Amazon don't have to be paid for time spent waiting to pass through security checks at the end of their shifts.

- **Long wait.** Some workers at Amazon contractor Integrity Staffing Solutions, Inc., claim they wait up to 25 minutes to clear security.

place environment just like they do normally in their own physical store or gallery," said Peter Faricy, vice-president for Amazon Marketplace.

Amazon's competitor eBay, which has long offered auctions for its third-party sellers, has been moving more toward fixed prices.

About 80 per cent of its sales now come from new, fixed-price merchandise, although it still offers auctions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tim Hortons. Burger King takeover approved

Tim Hortons Inc. is ready to pursue its global expansion, chief executive Marc Caira said Tuesday as shareholders voted to approve a takeover of the company by Burger King.

"I believe we are well positioned, following this transaction, to take Tim Hortons' brand experience around the world," Caira said at the company's shareholders meeting.

"Tim Hortons deserves to go around the world.

"We must share this Tim Hortons experience with the

rest of the world."

The shareholder vote followed approval of the deal by Ottawa after a review under the Investment Canada Act last week and by the Competition Bureau in October.

Burger King said the deal, worth more than \$12 billion in stock and cash, is expected to close on Dec. 12.

The combined company will be headquartered in Oakville, Ont., and be listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa tackles price gap for goods sold in Canada, U.S.



Two-year-old Finn Mowder listens as Industry Minister James Moore, background, makes an announcement in a toy store in Toronto on Tuesday. Moore announced legislation aimed at ensuring prices in Canada are not unfairly higher than those in the U.S. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Price Transparency Act. Legislation meant to name and shame those manufacturers that sell goods for more north of border

The federal government has announced new legislation that is meant to tackle the persistent price gap between goods in the U.S. and Canada.

The Price Transparency Act, tabled in Ottawa Tuesday, is designed to "name and shame" manufacturers and distributors that demand higher prices for goods in Canada, Industry Minister James Moore said.

"This legislation will not set or regulate prices in Canada," he told reporters at a news conference held at a Toys R Us store in Etobicoke.

The announcement follows through on a commitment the government made

in its 2014 budget, following a Senate investigation into the reasons for the U.S.-Canada pricing gap.

The legislation would give the federal Competition Commissioner the power to collect evidence on so-called cross-border price gouging and publicly report its findings.

The commissioner of tools to investigate cases of alleged price discrimination and the power to compel the production of evidence to expose discriminatory pricing practices.

"We think this is an effective tool" that will result in "immediate downward pressure on prices," Moore said. "We believe those who are engaging in this practice ... will abandon it."

While there are some legitimate cost differences between selling U.S. and Canadian goods, studies have shown that Canadians routinely pay between 10 and 25 per cent more than U.S. shoppers for television sets, cars and tires, TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hallmark drops 'swastika' wrap

Hallmark Cards Inc. has removed blue and silver gift wrap from circulation after a customer complained that she saw a swastika embedded in the design.

The Kansas City, Missouri-based company alerted retailers to the problem Monday after receiving a complaint Sunday night from a Walgreen's customer in Northridge, Calif.

The disputed wrap was featured in a Hanukkah display but Hallmark spokeswoman Julie Elliott says the

gift wrap wasn't intended for the Jewish holiday.

The Kansas City Star reports the gift wrap was distributed by Walgreen's, which is no longer selling it.

Elliott said in a news release that Hallmark didn't intend to offend anyone.

She said it was an oversight that no one at Hallmark noticed that intersecting lines in the paper could be seen as a swastika pattern.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



An example of the pattern used on gift wrap Hallmark took out of circulation. COURTESY HALLMARK CARDS INC.

Market Minute

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OIL
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VOICES

THEY EVEN SMILE CAREFULLY

While trying to dredge any meaning or purpose of yet another British royal visit to America may seem like a tedious exercise in earnestness, as British Monarchy 2.0, Will and Kate deserve credit for saving the brand. Wait, what was the brand again?



PAUL SULLIVAN
readers@metronews.ca

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, a.k.a. Will and Kate, have just finished wandering amiably, if somewhat aimlessly, around Manhattan, leading us all once again to wonder why.

I mean what was the point? To hang out with Jay-Z and Beyoncé at courtside to watch LeBron James? To make a speech about trafficking in endangered animal parts? To lay yet another wreath at the 9/11 memorial? To see how Kate handles being five months pregnant (with her usual poise and aplomb)?

Trying to dredge any meaning or purpose of yet another British royal visit to America may seem like a tedious exercise in earnestness. They're a nice enough young couple, which in itself is worth applauding when you consider other members of the family, including the Duke's own brother, Sir Harry Hinks, or his dad, the Prince of Embarrassing Things.

So rather than leave Americans with a bad taste in their

mouths from the last royal visit — Harry's assault on Vegas which failed to stay in Vegas — why not send that nice young couple? Everyone smiles and bows and then they go home for more of the same: Deferential adoration.

As British Monarchy 2.0, Will and Kate deserve credit for saving the brand — which is great until we start asking, "So what's the brand, again?" The bad old days made sense: Back when Charles



METRO PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Bobbleheads of state

As Paul McCartney famously wrote: 'Her Majesty's a pretty nice girl but she doesn't have a lot to say.' Which goes double for Will and Kate ...

and Diana were poisoning each other's PR and a Texas financier was sucking the Duchess of York's toes, the monarchy was collapsing like the corrupt spent force we all assumed it had become.

But now that the artlessly dignified couple has pulled its ashes out of the fire, the monarchy has become a force again. Three-quarters of her Majesty's subjects believe that it will survive at least until little Prince George is old enough to be king. Not so long ago, when Diana was getting riding lessons from the cavalry, the House of Windsor was under self-inflicted siege.

Too bad this post-modern Restoration takes us back to the safe, stuffy and utterly pointless exercise it had become under Queen E II. As Paul McCartney famously wrote: "Her Majesty's a pretty nice girl but she doesn't have a lot to say." Which goes double for Will and Kate, who even

smile carefully. Is that what the British people want for their annual royal subsidy of 36 million pounds? Closer to home, is that what Canadians want from our bobbleheads of state?

Poor Will is reduced to sticking up for a few other endangered animals, because he's constitutionally barred from saying anything about the real issues: Home-grown terrorism, unemployment, immigration — you know, the actual news headlines arranged around the celebrity photos of Kate's latest thrilling frock.

Irony, isn't it? The more civil the behaviour, the less relevant the Royal.

Maybe it's time to let Harry and Aunt Sarah out of the bag again and send them somewhere interesting, like Cannes or Rio.

It may be short, but it could be sweet.

More than just books: Why libraries empower us all



MIKE DONACHIE
Metro in Toronto

Take a look at our libraries, and you can read us like a book. Mention public services, and the mind leaps to health-care or police, or maybe garbage collection, transit or road repairs. Mention a library, and many people will think of a dusty building filled with endless shelves of battered tomes. They'd be wrong, at least nowadays.

But library services need to be at the forefront of modern public services, sweeping away

that dusty old image, and here's why. Libraries are far more important than many people think. They unlock our potential to learn, and modern times have seen them branch out to far more than just books.

In Toronto, for example, public library staff report that 72 per cent of citizens visited a library within the past year, with individual "uses" — and that's in every imaginable way — hitting almost 97 million in 2013. Interestingly, the city's engagement with paper books has been dropping steadily. In the decade to 2013, use of collections in-person at libraries

Sweeping away that old dusty image

Mention a library, and many people will think of a dusty building filled with endless shelves of battered tomes. They'd be wrong, at least nowadays.

dropped by 27.3 per cent. But the use of electronic collections, including e-books, doubled in 2011, then 2012 and again in 2013. They now represent 10 per cent of the circulation of books in Toronto's libraries.

The trend is not limited to big cities. In neighbourhoods across Canada, libraries are feeding the appetite for infor-

mation in the information age.

A library is still a way to find information, but you can also make connections, attend events, hear music, access the Internet and more. There are educational programs, art exhibits, reading clubs, talks and social gatherings. You can find 3-D printers, toys and havens for newcomers, new mothers

and the elderly. Canada spends more than \$1 billion a year on libraries from public funds, at different levels of government, and has done so every year since 2008-09, according to Statistics Canada, and that shows the degree to which we value these institutions.

Calgary's building a beautiful new central library, at a cost of \$245 million, with a four-storey central atrium and a huge skylight to shed light on the more than half a million books the place will hold when it's completed in 2018. Halifax's new central library, costing more than \$50 million,

opens next week, and the excitement level is high.

Investment in library services is a measure of a society, and Canada's investment is in the future. With newcomers pouring in every year — in 2013, this country welcomed more than 270,000 new permanent residents alone — the need to learn is greater than ever before.

When the people of Canada improve themselves, Canada improves. So, as municipalities get ready to set their budgets for the coming year, they need to be kind to their libraries.

It's an investment in us all.



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Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON
THE WORLD OF
CELEBRITIES

Jessica Alba ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Sony hack reveals how celebs give aliases a bad name

The Sony hack is the gift that keeps on giving for fans of entertainment industry schadenfreude. While we certainly don't condone employees having their Social Security Numbers released or families threatened via email, there has been a certain degree of pleasure in seeing how they really feel about Adam Sandler movies. And the latest bit of info may be the best.

A document has surfaced featuring contact information used during filming,

including the fake names celebrities go by to remain undetected. And oh my, these are fantastic.

Some sound like dime-store detectives — ahem, Tom Hanks — while some like porn stars — looking at you, Tobey Maguire. Some, like Ice Cube, just use their real-life names, which is boring. And Taye Diggs apparently just wants people to think he's someone related to Taye Diggs. But the absolute best? Jessica Alba, who apparently goes by the code name Cash Money.

Here's the list:

- Tom Hanks: Harry Lauder and Johnny Madrid
- Sarah Michelle Gellar: Neely O'Hara
- Tobey Maguire: Neil Deep
- Natalie Portman: Lauren Brown
- Clive Owen: Robert Fenton
- Rob Schneider: Nazzo Good
- Taye Diggs: Scott Diggs
- Jude Law: Mr. Perry
- Daniel Craig: Olwen Williams
- Ice Cube: Darius Stone and O'Shea Jackson
- Debra Messing: Ava Harper
- Jessica Alba: Cash Money

YouTube star Connor Franta comes out



Super-popular YouTube star Connor Franta recently announced to his 3.6 million YouTube subscribers and 2.37 million Twitter followers that he is gay in a heartfelt video.

If you're not sure what a Connor Franta is, go ask a teenager. Anyway: "2014 is truly the year that I have accepted who I am and become happy with that person. So today I want to talk to you guys about that and be open and honest, and tell you that I'm gay."

Connor Franta

Franta says in the video.

Franta joined YouTube in 2010 and until earlier this year was a part of the successful vlog channel Our2ndLife.

Though he'd previously denied speculation about his sexuality, he explains in his coming-out video that it had taken him a long time to accept himself. "I was tired of running. I was tired of hiding," he says. "I just want to be me and not be afraid."

His fans have been very, very supportive — well, most of them, at least.

It's all over for Kate Hudson and Muse frontman

Kate Hudson's engagement to Muse frontman Matthew Bellamy is officially over, as the couple have scrapped their four-year-old plans to get hitched, according to People magazine.

"Kate and Matt have been separated for some time now," says Hudson's rep, who is clearly disappointed that we're just noticing now. "Despite this, they remain very close friends and committed co-parents." Their son, Bingham, was born in



Kate Hudson

2011, three months after Bellamy proposed to Hudson.

Grumpy Cat purrs down a cool \$100M? Surly not!

Tell the Internet it can calm down, because that report in the Express about online sensation Grumpy Cat pulling in \$100 million? Let's just file that under "wildly inaccurate."

Proud owner of Grumpy Cat, Tabatha Bundesen, tells the paper, "I was able to quit my job as a waitress within days of her first appearance on social media, and the

phone simply hasn't stopped ringing since," which is either hyperbole or a terrifying way to live. But Bundesen tells the Huffington Post that while Grumpy Cat has pulled in plenty of cash thanks to appearances, endorsements and a new Lifetime Christmas movie, the Express is way off with its \$100 million claim.

But Lil Bub? That guy's totally a billionaire.

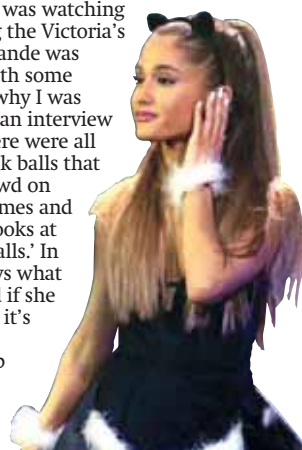


Grumpy Cat

Ariana's naughty aside a nice surprise for Sheeran

Apparently while everyone else was watching models strut the runway during the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, Ariana Grande was making Ed Sheeran crack up with some risqué humour. "Can I tell you why I was laughing?" Sheeran explains in an interview with Elvis Duran. "Basically, there were all these big inflatable bouncy black balls that are bouncing around in the crowd on the finale bit. Ariana Grande comes and stands up next to me and just looks at me and goes, 'I love big black balls.' In my head I was like, 'If she knows what that means, then I love her, and if she doesn't know what that means, it's even better.'"

I'm going to go out on a limb here and guess that she does in fact know what that means.



Ariana Grande

Skulduggery, greed and sex: This Marco Polo is no game

Streaming. Think GOT with martial arts as Netflix series follows 13th-century explorer on the Silk Road to the court of Kublai Kahn

RICHARD
CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

A year ago, Edmonton-born actress Olivia Cheng says she was familiar with Marco Polo as an Italian traveller “and I obviously knew about the swimming pool game, but that is about it.”

Now, as the star of the new Netflix adventure series about Polo’s early years, she’s captivated by the story.

“When I saw the first script I said, ‘Where’s the second script? Then the third, fourth, fifth...’”

The handsome 10-episode season follows Polo’s travels on the Silk Road to the court of Mongolian emperor Kublai Kahn.

It’s a study of political skulduggery, greed and sexual politics, 13th-century style.

Imagine Game of Thrones with martial arts and an international cast headed by Rick The Fast and the Furious Yune and Joan Chen and you get the idea.

“All of my stuff was shot in studio in Malaysia,” says Cheng, who spent five months on location.

“I’ve never had an opportunity to immerse myself so fully in a role and be able to focus like that.



Olivia Cheng, left, and Joan Chen star in a 10-part Netflix series about Marco Polo. PHIL BRAY FOR NETFLIX

You’re almost in a cocoon or a bubble, where you are constantly thinking about the story, constantly thinking about the nuances. I would often walk from set to set watching different scenes. I just got to immerse myself in the world of Marco Polo and experience a cultural adventure that I’m really grateful for.”

The actress, who also plays Linda Park on Arrow and The Flash, says the show’s elaborately tailored wardrobe helped her find

the character of Mei Lin, a royal concubine and martial arts expert.

“When you have the beautiful costumes, you are able to step into a world and suddenly it informs you,” she says.

“That is a huge gift as an actor because a costume can make you move a certain way; you are in your body in a certain way because of the weight of the material. For me, I felt like it made me so much more graceful. You have to be, in order not to

trip in those costumes.”

But just as interesting as watching the world of Marco Polo being built was a scene where she tries to pull it all apart.

“I can’t tell you how amazing it was to get to film White Moon — this epic fight scene with 200 extras all dressed in white,” she says.

“I felt so grateful because I saw all the effort it took to create this world for me to run in and try and destroy it.”

TV. Leoni head over heels for Madam Secretary role

It took surprisingly little for Tea Leoni to take on a lead role in a network television show — which she did for the freshman political drama Madam Secretary — just word from her kids that they’d rather not have her around the house that much.

“I’d been struggling for a while with this idea of committing to something that could be — potentially, we hope — a long endeavour,” she remembers. “I was walking across the street with my son, who’s 12, and I said, ‘I’m thinking about doing this thing. If I do this, I could be very busy for a while.’ He looks up at me and is like, ‘Mom, it’s totally fine.’ I was like, ‘Really?’ And he says, ‘Yeah. We were really getting sick of you anyway.’ So it was great to have that blessing, honestly.”

On the series, Leoni plays U.S. Secretary of State Elizabeth McCord, and she admits that a lot of people have jumped to a pretty obvious conclusion when it comes to her model for the character — former Secretary of State and presumptive presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. But she insists they’re completely off-base.

“I’ve certainly been asked if I met with Hillary. And obviously it’s the blonde hair, right off the bat. I swore, I said, ‘No, it’s Kissinger,’ but whatever,” Leoni jokes. “The truth is the first place in my mind that I went was not toward a particular political figure or in particular a female Secretary of State, since we’ve had three. I thought more about my grandmother — who founded the U.S. fund for UNICEF, who was the volunteer president for almost 30 years and raised five kids and 27 grandchildren — and what it was for her to be travelling around the world and coming home and being a mother. I think about my friends who are



Tea Leoni CONTRIBUTED

Quoted

“I’ve certainly been asked if I met with Hillary. And obviously it’s the blonde hair, right off the bat. I swore, I said, ‘No, it’s Kissinger,’ but whatever.”

Tea Leoni, jokes about assumptions her Madam Secretary is based on Hillary Clinton

up to it, who are working mothers and what that’s about.”

Leoni, for her part, finds Secretary McCord incredibly easy to relate to. “I certainly do when I think about the heels that I’m wearing and the hours that I keep and my children at home. Those three things are very much the same,” she says.

“The shoes, God damn it, can we just talk about the shoes? I tell you, that’s the hardest part of my job. I am in high heels for sometimes 17 hours in a day. My feet are killing me. I don’t know how we do it. I can’t even imagine how John Kerry’s handling it.”

NED EHRBAR/METRO IN HOLLYWOOD

Obama sends himself up on The Colbert Report

His daughters mock his big ears, he leaves his socks on the floor and sitting behind Stephen Colbert’s desk, he said, gives him a greater sense of power.

When President Barack Obama was not seriously defending his economic record, his executive actions on immigration and his delayed decision on the Keystone XL oil pipeline Monday on The Colbert Report, he was playfully confiding that the trappings of the presidency really don’t go to his head.

“When I go home, Michelle,



Obama on The Colbert Report.
SUSAN WALSH/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Malia and Sasha give me a hard time,” he told host Stephen Colbert. “There are no trumpets, and they tease me mercilessly.”

It was Obama’s third appearance on the show, his

second as president, and marked the beginning of the final two weeks for the Comedy Central program. Colbert will take over for David Letterman on CBS’ Late Show next year.

Obama kicked off the show sitting in for Colbert to perform a regular feature of the program called The Word wherein Colbert’s rants are accompanied by snarky messages to the audience.

So when Obama, as Colbert, declared that there are aspects of Obamacare that people from both parties ac-

tually like, the text aside to the audience read: “Everything but the Obama.”

As he wrapped up, Colbert had one last question: “Barack Obama — great president or the greatest president?”

“I’m going to let someone else decide — not you, but someone who knows what they’re talking about,” the president replied.

Colbert countered: “Stephen Colbert — great pundit or the greatest pundit?”

Obama didn’t miss a beat: “The greatest pundit.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weeknights at 6 Kat counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day

TOP SIX @ 6

- 6 Mark Ronson ft Bruno Mars
Uptown Funk!
- 5 Jason Derulo
Trumpets
- 4 Ariana Grande & The Weekend
Love Me Harder
- 3 Sam Smith
I'm Not The Only One
- 2 Nick Jonas
Jealous
- 1 Taylor Swift
Blank Space

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Snow much more than skiing

Winter wonderlands.

Alpine sports are the big draw at many of these resorts, but they also do a good job of entertaining the chalet dwellers

It may seem that skiers hold a monopoly over winter. But luxury ski resorts are increasingly recognizing that winter doesn't only belong to snow bunnies by launching innovative new activities — think snow paragliding and igloo building — for their non-skiing guests.

For couples who have a hard time reconciling one person's ski needs and the other person's aversion to frozen toes and broken limbs, online booking site Trivago has curated a list of some of the most luxurious hotels that double as wintry fairylands.

The Omni Homestead, Hot Springs, Va.

While your partner heads out to carve snow, take a soak in the outdoor, adult-only hot springs at The Omni Homestead tucked into the Allegheny Mountains. The property, which has hosted 22 U.S. presidents, sits on the largest private hot springs in Virginia. Once you're sufficiently warm and toasty, head over to the on-site movie theatre. Other activities include ice skating, snow tubing, and snowmobile tours.

Les Airelles, Courchevel, France

Famed for its world-class skiing, the village of Courchevel 1850 is part of Les Trois Vallées, the largest ski area in the world. At Hotel de Charme Les Airelles, adventure seekers can explore the area by horse, snowmobile,



While skiers are hitting the slopes, non-skiers can soak in the mineral pool at The Fairmont Banff Springs. AFP FILE

snowshoe, or even helicopter. Gastronomes can look forward to Michelin-grade fare at Pierre Gagnaire for Les Airelles.

The Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff, Alta.

It's called Canada's 'Castle in the Rockies,' for good reason. Guests have a slew of winter sports activities to choose from at the stunning, 19th-century property, including canyon ice walking, dog sledding, ice fishing, and the very Canadian sport of curling. Thaw out at Banff's hot springs or at the hotel's mineral pool.

The Cambrian, Adelboden, Switzerland

This one's for the design hound who values the importance of esthetics. Contemporary and minimal in design with cowhide accents and luxury furnishings from B&B Italia, Porada and Knoll International, all rooms are equipped with a flat-screen TV, DVD player and Wi-Fi. Non-ski activities include snow tubing, winter hiking,



The St. Regis Aspen Resort boasts the best spa in the world, as named by Travel + Leisure magazine. AFP FILE

igloo building, ice climbing, night sledding, and even snow paragliding.

St. Regis Aspen Resort, Aspen, Colo.

One of St. Regis's biggest non-ski assets is its Remede Spa, which holds the distinction of being named best spa in the world by Travel + Leisure magazine. After a tiring day on the slopes or snowshoes, guests can try out their innovative

new treatment, the Farm-to-Massage-Table, an interesting twist on the gastronomic farm-to-table trend. The concept uses locally sourced and natural ingredients in its treatment.

Cristallo Spa & Golf, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy

About two hours from Venice, in the Dolomites mountain range, sits the Cristallo Spa and Golf, a luxury resort that's also renowned for its world-class

Four Seasons, Whistler B.C.

As the largest ski resort in North America, the Four Seasons Whistler has earned itself a solid reputation among ski bunnies. But aside from skiing and snowboarding, the luxury resort offers another activity that's not exactly synonymous with winter: golf. On the 18th green, putters will be met with a PGA pro, board a private helicopter to fly 8,000 feet (2,438 metres), and undertake a glacier tee-off from the 19th hole. With tips from your personal PGA golf coach, participants get set to make their longest drive and slam their biodegradable golf ball into the abyss of the wintry Canadian mountain range.

spa that includes everything from anti-jet lag facial treatments and Lomi Lomi massage, characterized by slow, winding movements that evoke the rippling of waves for long-lasting relaxation. The hotel is near the Olympic bobsleigh track for non-skiing thrill-seekers.

Montage Deer Valley, Park City, Utah

Montage Deer Valley only opened in 2010 but has already amassed a string of accolades from travel publications like Condé Nast Traveler and Travel + Leisure in categories like best hotel, spa and resort. This winter season, activities include cross-country ski, snowshoeing, tubing, ice-skating, snowmobiling, dog sledding, fly fishing and train rides. Guests can also visit nearby Utah Olympic Park to watch top athletes train in Nordic jumping, bobsled, luge and skeleton. AFP

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Manage your goals during the holidays

Career. 'Tis the season for stressful, stacked-up schedules. Here's how to figure it all out while still feeling festive.

CELINE
TARRANT
TalentEgg.ca

On the heels of Halloween and Thanksgiving, December brings with it the busiest time of year for most people.

Along with an already hectic work schedule, you now have holiday parties, a never-ending list of gifts to buy, holiday traffic to beat and travel plans — and you still have to deliver on every deadline.

It's easy to let work get sidelined and pushed off until things calm down. Good time management is critical to make sure you can follow through on all your commitments, while still enjoying the holidays.

Here's how you can effectively manage your professional goals during the busy holiday season, and set yourself up for success in the New Year.

Make a list, and check it twice

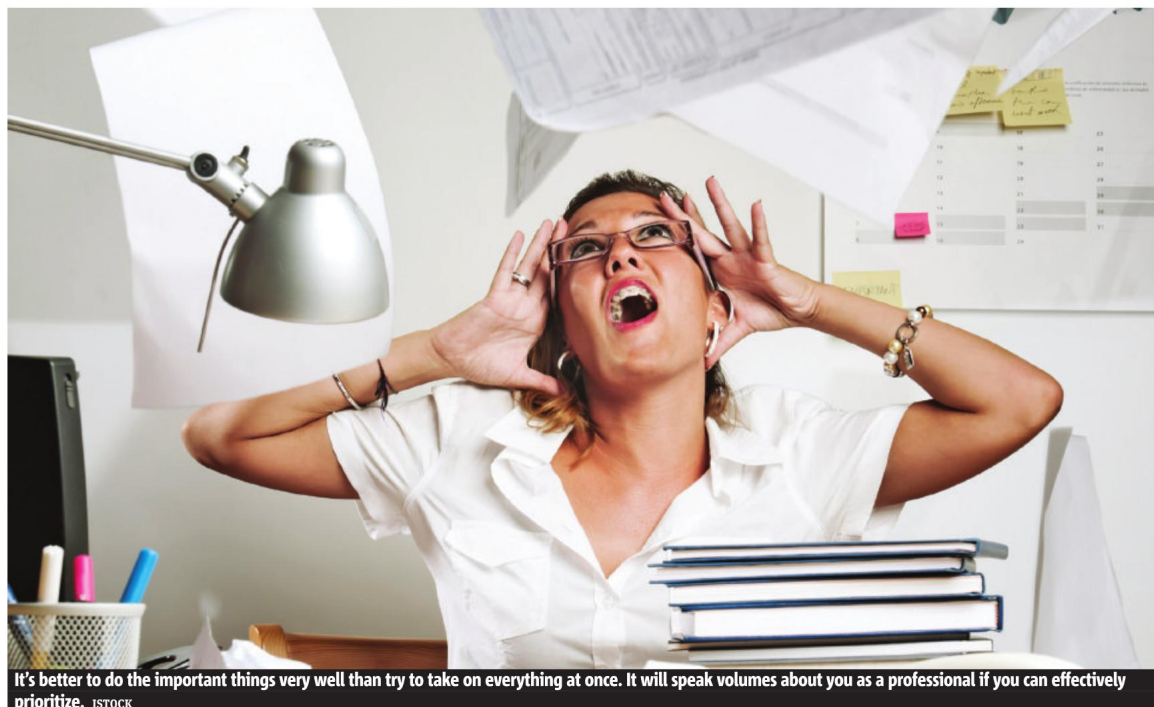
If there was ever a time to truly embrace the to-do list, this is definitely it. Whether you use your Outlook calendar, an app, or pen and paper, commit to writing down every single obligation.

In addition to meetings and project deadlines, block out short chunks of uninterrupted work time where you don't check email or answer calls (when possible). Distraction-free work time does not exist during this busy time of year — unless you make it for yourself.

Include things that you might not usually put on your to-do list like shopping, parties, gym time, holiday baking, meal-prep, travel plans, and even when you plan to wake up and go to bed.

Scheduling every detail of your life may seem cumbersome, but seeing how you plan to spend all your time is an extremely powerful tool, and will help you figure out how you can fit everything in. Or maybe it will reveal where you are needlessly wasting precious time each day.

As you complete each



It's better to do the important things very well than try to take on everything at once. It will speak volumes about you as a professional if you can effectively prioritize. ISTOCK

task, indulge in the satisfaction of crossing it off your list. These are small wins to be savoured every day.

Prioritize, prioritize, prioritize

After making such a detailed to-do list, it's tempting to try to power through it as fast as possible and get everything done, but this often results in burnout or a series of half-done jobs that need to be re-worked in the New Year.

Be honest with yourself about what items are critical and which are not.

Get what you need from others

Business continuity is often a challenge during the holidays, with people on vacation or out sick.

You're more likely to get an out-of-office email than an actual response, so it can seem impossible to move

projects forward or get any real work done.

The last thing you want is to miss an important deadline because you forgot to collect a key piece of work from someone who just went on vacation.

Make sure you know what deliverables you need to progress your work, and follow up with people. Keep track of your team's and boss' vacation time so you schedule important meetings before they leave, and establish a contingency plan if something goes wrong.

Extend the same courtesy to others. Your boss may have approved your vacation, but gently reminding them is always a good idea so they aren't blindsided when you don't show up for two weeks.

Don't put professional development on the

back burner

Remember that stack of whitepapers you've been meaning to read? Or that

For the love of lists

Scheduling every detail of your life may seem cumbersome, but seeing how you plan to spend all your time is an extremely powerful tool, and will help you figure out how you can fit everything in.

industry holiday party that you still haven't RSVP'd to attend? Despite competing demands for your time during the holidays, professional development should always be a priority for those who want to stay at the top of their game in today's job market.

Take advantage of your morning commute, long drives to visit out-of-town family, and vacation-bound flights to catch up on your industry reading, webinars, and to wish the people in your network happy holidays.

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Be realistic — know when to say 'no'

It's important to be realistic with yourself about how much you can get done.

- Despite your best intentions to be a productivity master during this busy season, everyone has limits.
- Take the time to really prioritize rather than just try to get as much done as possible.
- Pick your professional and social obligations carefully, and don't overcommit yourself. If you set the right priorities for yourself and stick to your to-do list, you can manage your professional goals during the holidays, and have a little fun, too.

These aren't mom's breakfast pancakes



This recipe makes 32 blinis. EMILY RICHARDS

Smoked Salmon Served on Buckwheat Blinis. Impress guests with an appetizer that offers various textures



DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

Entertaining this holiday season will be super easy if you have a few great recipes to keep on hand — like these blinis.

When planning a get-together make sure that you are not alone in preparing some fun food. Switch things up by making the dishes with your friends and enjoying the company.

Digging into tasty morsels with a great glass of wine, cocktail or bubbly will be even more enjoyable if you've bonded over making them.

These tender little pancakes are topped with lemon cream cheese and smoked sal-

mon. They are a perfect nibble for a night in with friends.

1. In a bowl, dissolve yeast in water and stir in 1 1/4 cups (300 ml) of the buttermilk; let stand for 10 minutes or until frothy.

2. In another bowl, combine both flours and salt. Sift flour mixture into the buttermilk mixture and stir until well combined. Stir in remaining buttermilk.

3. Whisk egg yolks into the batter. Cover and set aside in a warm place to rise for about 1 hour or until batter is bubbly.

4. Beat egg whites until stiff peaks and fold into the batter. Cover and let rise for 1 hour.

5. Lightly brush nonstick skillet with some melted butter and heat over medium high. Spoon 1 tbsp (15 ml) of the batter for each blini and cook for about 1 minute, until bubbles break through. Turn blini over and brown for another 30 seconds. Remove from pan, and place on a plate so they do not get soggy; repeat with

Ingredients

- 2 tsp (10 ml) traditional active dry yeast
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) lukewarm water
- 1 3/4 cup (425 ml) lukewarm buttermilk
- 1 cup (250 ml) all purpose flour
- 1 cup (250 ml) buckwheat flour
- 1 tsp (5 ml) salt
- 2 eggs, separated
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) butter, melted
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) cream cheese, softened
- 1 1/2 tsp (7 ml) grated lemon rind
- 1 tsp (5 ml) lemon juice
- 1 lb (500 g) thinly sliced smoked salmon
- Chopped green onions (optional)

remaining batter.

6. In a small bowl, combine cream cheese, lemon rind and juice. Spread some of the cream cheese mixture onto the blinis. Roll sliced salmon around your finger to create a rosette and place on blini. Sprinkle with green onions to serve if desired.

Lunch. Open-faced Corn and Zucchini Omelette with Smoked Salmon

1. Heat the oven to 350 F.

2. In a colander, toss the coarsely shredded zucchini with 1/2 tsp of salt and allow to stand over sink for about 10 minutes.

3. In a large, oven-safe nonstick skillet, heat the vegetable or canola oil over medium. Add the chopped yellow onion and cook until it is golden, about 5 minutes. Set aside.

4. Using your hands, squeeze small handfuls of zucchini to discard as much water as possible. Add the squeezed zucchini to the skillet with onion. Return the skillet to the medium



This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

heat and cook, stirring, for about 2 minutes.

5. Stir in the corn kernels, lightly beaten eggs and remaining tsp salt. Cook, lifting up the edges of the omelette to let the uncooked egg mix flow underneath, until the omelette is mostly set. Transfer the omelette to the oven and bake for 5 minutes, or until the top is

just set.

6. Meanwhile, in a small bowl combine the yogurt, lemon zest and lemon juice. Season with salt and pepper. To serve, cut the omelette into wedges and top each portion with a quarter of the salmon and lemon cream, as well as a sprinkling of dill.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1 lb zucchini, coarsely shredded
- 1 1/2 tsp kosher salt, divided
- 2 tbsp vegetable or canola oil
- 1 cup finely chopped yellow onion
- 2 cups fresh corn kernels
- 8 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup plain fat-free Greek yogurt
- 1 tsp each grated lemon zest/juice
- Ground black pepper
- 4 oz smoked salmon, cut into thin strips
- Chopped fresh dill, to garnish

Food around the world

Vietnam (vegan rating: 7/10)

Meat, a contented carnivorous writer, documents his and his vegan fiancée Veg's dietary journey as they travel and munch their way across four continents.



MEAT AND VEG
meatandvegonthroad.tumblr.com
Photos: Suzi Staheli
Words: Eoin Weldon

Veg: Veg didn't encounter many problems in Hanoi, Cat Ba Island and Quan Lan Island. A decent rice, veg and tofu dish was never hard to find. Her fave meal was at a vegan restaurant in Hanoi. It came in six separate portions: A bean-based chicken substitute, tofu in a spicy sauce, shredded mango salad, fried morning glory, rice with coconut shavings and a veggie broth.

Meat: I became acquainted with Pho. Our hotel on the ultra-remote and beautiful Quan Lan Island served the best fare and here I enjoyed handmade shrimp spring rolls complete with tangy dip along with a refreshing and tasty Pho Bo or beef Pho, which came loaded with tender steak slivers.

Happy Holidays!

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HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS

10 reasons to give

With just a few weeks left before Christmas, it's time to get serious about finishing your gift shopping. Have you considered getting friends or family members a gift card? While some people think they're a bit of a cop out, here are 10 reasons why Santa probably wraps up gift cards, too.

1. EASY TO BUY. If you don't enjoy shopping, buying a gift card online or from a store is simple and straightforward.

2. TIME IS RUNNING OUT. Gift cards are faster to buy than traditional gifts, according to a recent National Retail Council survey. According to Ottawa University student Kieran McKinnon: "In the super-stressful holiday season sometimes it becomes necessary to go for an approximation of what someone might like, rather than the actual thing."

3. ALL ABOUT THE RECIPIENT. Gift cards put the selection of gifts completely into the hands of the recipient. Says McKinnon:

"Receiving a gift card gives someone the chance to choose exactly what they would like for Christmas." According to the NRC survey, more than half of us buy gift cards for this reason.

4. A PERFECT SOLUTION. If you know someone who has everything, a gift card is perfect.

5. A SPECIAL GIFT. The person who receives a gift card has to buy something — and maybe something really special. Says Centennial College student Kelly-Celina Batris: "I like getting a gift card because it lets me buy things for myself that I might not have otherwise."

6. PORTABILITY. A gift card is easy to send to friends or family who live a long ways away.

7. NO RESEARCH REQUIRED. Giving a gift card is a thoughtful gesture even when you don't know the recipient that well.



SHUTTERSTOCK

8. MAKE NO MISTAKE. There's no risk of disappointment with a 'wrong' gift or anyone having to return anything.

9. IT WON'T GO TO WASTE. Let's say the recipient hasn't finished their shopping ... a

gift card is one of the easiest gifts to re-gift.

10. GOOD ON YOU. Provided you think about which card to give and it's appropriate, giving a gift card shows you put some effort into the gift.

Customized gifts at Wine Kitz

Certificates available, packages can include labels and caps

Making wine is a great hobby. Not only is the process fun, the results are tasty. Today's wine kits offer wine comparable in quality to commercial wines, but at a fraction of the cost.

Even if you don't have the space in your

home to make wine, in-store winemaking is an option at Wine Kitz in Lower Sackville. There are just three easy steps: pick your wine, sprinkle the yeast and come back to bottle when it is ready.

Located at 601 Sackville Dr., Wine Kitz has lots of free parking.

One great gift option these holidays is a gift certificate to Wine Kitz. The certificates are available in any denomination, but the business also offers customized gift packages. For example, it's possible to purchase a package covering somebody's wine kit and

the fee for having the wine made in store.

"It can be customized to how much you want to spend and what kind of experience you want to offer the person," said owner-operator David Wall.

This means extra touches such as including labels and shrink caps can also be included. To top it off, the packages come with a customized gift letter.

Wine Kitz' Sackville location has been open for a year and Wall and the staff thank its loyal customers for their outstanding support.



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Go for a superior pedicure

Amy Tobin also offers gift certificates

The condition a person's feet are in can be indicative of their overall health.

"Feet can give you a sneak peek into what's going on in the rest of your body," said certified podologist Amy Tobin.

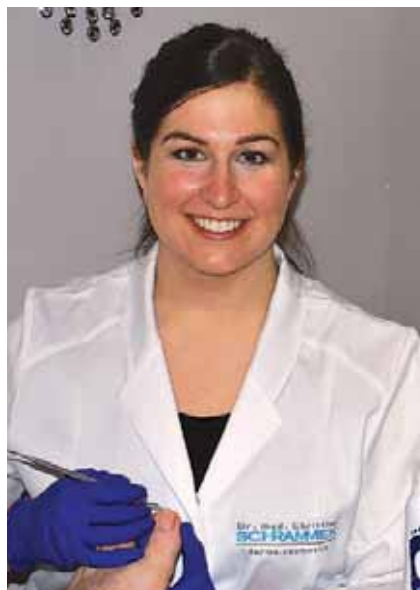
Feet are filled with nerve endings, so it's crucial we take care of them, especially given the pressure we place on them everyday.

While Tobin's background is rooted in esthetics, her focus and specialty are feet. She is a certified master pedicurist and is nearing completion of a bachelor of science in podology. Tobin has also completed six-star European spa training in London, England through the Steiner Training Academy.

This advanced level of education means Tobin is well versed in understanding and knowing how to treat different skin and nail disorders, while providing a level of pampering that is unrivalled.

Tobin says if you have thick, discoloured toenails, corns, dry feet, calluses, painful ingrown toenails or are diabetic, you need to be getting routine foot care. This is especially true for diabetics.

Amy Tobin is self-employed and operates



CONTRIBUTED

out of Independence Beauty Centres, located at 245 Waverley Rd. in Dartmouth.

To make an appointment, call 902-818-8826 or email amytohin.esthetics@gmail.com. Gift certificates are also available for purchase.



CONTRIBUTED

For the hunting enthusiast

Deal on gift cards at Better Buy Sports

Better Buy Sports is the largest hunting and fishing retailer in Nova Scotia. Even better, it's Maritime-owned.

With a location in Dartmouth (at 600 Windmill Rd.) and two in New Brunswick, Better Buy Sports is able to carry a wide variety of products that you won't be able to find elsewhere.

"If you're an outdoor person, there's something in here for you," said owner Terry Fullerton.

In addition to solid prices and great selection, Better Buy Sports provides top-

notch service. The business has a full-time gunsmith on staff, meaning it can service the firearms it sells and the ones its customers have at home. Better Buy Sports also has a bow technician on staff.

At Better Buy Sports, you won't find a seasonal department. Regardless of the season, the business carries hunting and fishing products.

From now until Christmas, Better Buy Sports is having a special on gift cards. When customers purchase a \$100 gift card, they will receive an additional \$10 gift card for free.

Gift cards are a great gift option because for hobbies such as hunting and fishing, it's often difficult to know just what an enthusiast has or doesn't have in their collection.



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Amy Tobin, C.Pod, CMP, CE
902-818-8826

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Do your gift cards a little differently

Get creative, personalize it, and have fun

• **PERSONALIZED.** Photogiftcard.com can help you make a prepaid and personalized gift card. Choose from the available gift card merchants, upload your image, add text, choose the value — and create the card.

• **COMBO GIFTS.** Get creative and wrap up a movie theatre gift card with an air popper and popcorn. Put a restaurant gift card in a takeout box. Fill a jar with the person's favourite candy and put a gift card down into the middle of the candy. Some retailers do it for you ... at Starbucks, for example, you can buy an ornament for the Christmas tree that holds a gift card.

• **EXPERIENCE.** Wrap up an experience card. For example, at sambadays.com, the gift giver chooses the package (such as 'adventure', 'explore and learn', 'golf') and the amount. The recipient has to activate the card and choose the experience ranging

from 'join a rock band' for \$875 to 'Latin dance lessons' for \$89 to a 'helicopter flight lesson' for \$299.

• **GIVE BACK.** At canadahelps.org, pick a design for the gift card, a value, and add your own message. It will be delivered or you can hand deliver it, and then the recipient chooses the charity (and you get a tax receipt). Or, give a \$100 gift card from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Foundation (camh.ca), which allows the recipient to decide which Gifts of Light to give.

• **DELIVERY INCLUDED.** Amazon.ca will package a gift card in a free gift box shaped like a snowflake and mail it. If you need faster delivery, go online. Mountain Equipment Company, for example, will help you design a gift card (at MEC choose an outdoor shot), select an amount, provide email information ... and the gift card will be delivered within 24 hours.



SHUTTERSTOCK



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Score fuel savings.



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The Esso brand is a proud sponsor of Hockey Canada.



* See Esso Gift Cards for details, terms and conditions. Valid only at Esso stations in Canada. Not reloadable. Any Esso Extra points to which the user will be entitled when the Esso Gift Card is used will be awarded only if the Esso Extra card is swiped at the time of purchase. ** The PRICE PRIVILEGES cards will be available at participating Esso stations in Canada from November 11, 2014 to January 5, 2015 or while quantities last. The PRICE PRIVILEGES card expires on June 30, 2016 and has no value until it is activated. Visit priceprivileges.ca for full program terms and conditions. *Official Mark of Hockey Canada. Esso, Esso Extra and PRICE PRIVILEGES are trademarks of Imperial Oil Limited. Imperial Oil, licensee.



TAKE YOUR GOLF GAME TO THE NEXT LEVEL

GOLFERS WILL APPRECIATE GIFT CARD TO INDIAN LAKE

While it might be December, that doesn't mean the golf season has ended. Indian Lake Golf Course recently installed three HD golf simulators.

"We're going to be the only golf course I know of open year-round," said co-owner Stuart Dow.

Indian Lake is located four kilometres past Exhibition Park in Hatchet Lake.

The quality of the simulators is unprecedented and was created by a Toronto-based company, High Definition Golf.

The simulators incorporate high-resolution digital images, satellite data and geophysical data into 3D models of golf courses. Golfers will feel like they're actually there because every tree, bunker and water hazard is faithfully reproduced.

"It's like you're standing on the course and see what's there," said Dow.

Golfers also get an enhanced understanding of their game because the simulators measure details such as ball speed, club speed, launch angle, club face angle, ball spin and spin axis.

One of the best things is the variety of courses. There are 25 to choose from and feature world-renowned courses such as Pebble Beach Golf Links and the Banff Springs Golf Course.

The cost of using the simulator is \$30 per hour, tax included. Four people can play on a single screen at a time, just like a traditional foursome on the links.

Whether you're a golfer or someone on your Christmas list is a golfer, purchasing an Indian Lake gift card is the perfect way to stay in game shape year-round.

"You wouldn't miss a beat," said Dow.

'BEST IN THE MARITIMES'

Indian Lake Golf Course is an easily walkable public golf course catering to all levels and ages of golfers.

The course has made a lot of upgrades in recent years.

"If you played here 10 years ago, you wouldn't recognize the place," said co-owner Stuart Dow.

Some of the changes to the 18 hole, par 60 executive course include widening its holes and installing new tee boxes.

The end result is an unparalleled playing experience.

"We are by far the best executive golf course in the Maritimes," said Dow.

Indian Lake is also available for corporate, fundraising and private golf tournaments.

• Cabo Del Sol • Pacific Dunes • Princeville • Rich Harvest Farms • PGA National • BethPage Black • Spanish Bay • Nicklaus North • Pinehurst No. 2 • Blue Monster • Torrey Pines • Wooden Sticks • Banff Springs • Kiawah Island • Spyglass Hill • Harbour Town • Bay Hill • Pebble Beach

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Images by Tanya, on the web at www.tanyac.com

• BethPage Black • Blue Monster • Torrey Pines • Wooden Sticks • Banff Springs • Kiawah Island • Spyglass Hill • Harbour Town •

Demotion

Capitals reassign O'Brien to AHL

Halifax native Liam O'Brien, 20, has been sent down to the Hershey Bears of the American Hockey League.

The six-foot-one, 210-pound forward was an undrafted free agent before signing on with the Washington Capitals this fall.

The Capitals announced earlier this week they've reassigned O'Brien, who made his NHL debut Oct. 9 against Montreal and scored his first goal in the league Oct. 26 against Vancouver.

O'Brien's contract is a three-year deal worth \$70,000 annually with the Hershey Bears.

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO



Liam O'Brien GETTY IMAGES

Holiday rap

Season's greetings from Sheppard and the Sharks

James Sheppard of Lower Sackville and his fellow San Jose Sharks are in the holiday spirit.

The 26-year-old forward and several teammates are featured in an original festive rap video, Holiday Sweater, released by the NHL franchise to the interwebs Monday.

"They don't look tacky, they don't look weird, they're kinda fuzzy like a playoff beard," Sheppard busts out, wearing a reindeer sweater and elf hat.

"Rudolph's nose will always get redder and we will rock our holiday sweaters."

The six-foot-one, 215-pound former Dartmouth Subways player also sports a pair of neon green-framed sunglasses in the '80s-style video.

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO

GM dons poker face as trade period nears

Mooseheads. Russell not tipping his hand of any potential deals



KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE

kristen.lipscombe@metronews.ca

Cam Russell is holding his cards close as trade season approaches.

The Halifax Mooseheads general manager said Tuesday he's not making any quick moves when it comes to shuffling his 24-player roster during trade period, which runs Dec. 19 to Jan. 6.

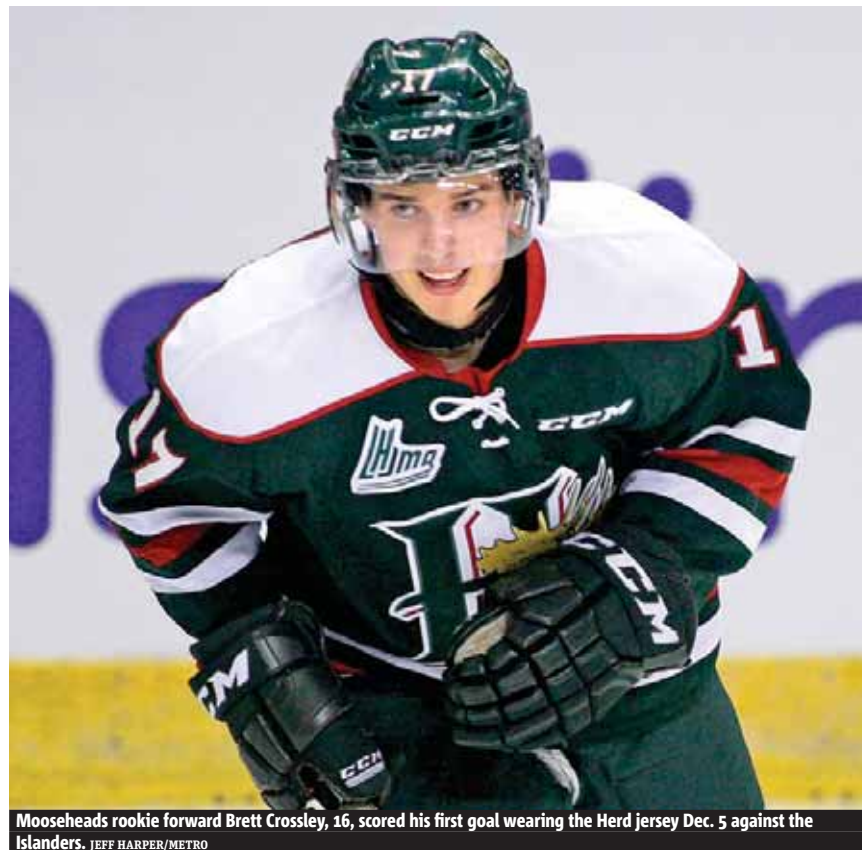
"We're being patient," Russell said of the city's QMJHL squad, which started off slow this season but seems to have picked up steam since early November.

"We're assessing our team," he said. "Trade period opens up on the 19th, so we've still got some time yet."

Russell won't hint at whether the Herd will trade youngsters for more experienced players to make a play-off run, swap veterans for youth and draft picks to build a long-term team, or quite simply, maintain the status quo.

It makes for a tough choice, considering this season's Moose are finally showing up on the ice, with recent big wins including an 8-2 rout over the top-ranked Rimouski Oceanic on Nov. 22, and in the standings, with nine wins since Nov. 1 and a 14-14-2-1 record.

"There are some teams that have already agreed on trades, and you'll see those on the first day," Russell said, "and there are other teams that are ... waiting to see what direction their team's



Mooseheads rookie forward Brett Crossley, 16, scored his first goal wearing the Herd jersey Dec. 5 against the Islanders. JEFF HARPER/METRO

going in, and deciding if it makes sense to make trades or to stand pat."

When it comes to his Moose, he couldn't "lean one way or the other" as of Tuesday evening.

The Mooseheads are a relatively young team this season, with nine rookies and just five players remaining from the team that won the 2013 Memorial Cup on the roster.

Import forwards Nikolaj Ehlers and Timo Meier cur-

Mid-week puck drop

The Halifax Mooseheads host the Acadie-Bathurst Titan on Wednesday night and the Québec Remparts on Thursday night at the Scotiabank Centre. The puck drops at 7 p.m. on both home games.

rently lead the team in points, with 47 and 41 points respectively, while goaltender Zach-

ary Fucale is considered one of the best in the country.

"We've had some injuries and players are starting to come back," Russell said of the Herd being hit hard with hurt athletes this year, recently including defence-men Cavan Fitzgerald, Josh Fitzgerald and Morgan Nauss, along with captain Ryan Falkenham.

"We're just keeping a close eye on our hockey team," Russell said. "Our plan is just to make the right moves."

Herd rookies finding their strides



Morgan Nauss CONTRIBUTED

Brett Crossley is finding his stride.

The 16-year-old Cole Harbour kid scored his first goal wearing a Halifax Mooseheads jersey Dec. 5, in a 5-0 shutout win over the Charlottetown Islanders, and is settling in with the Herd.

"We're a fairly young core of guys," the QMJHL rookie said Tuesday of life off the ice.

"Everybody hangs out with everybody," he said.

On the ice, it took Crossley 23 regular-season games to notch his first Moose point, but the five-foot-11, 161-pound forward feels he's adjusting to the more physical nature of major junior.

While at Shattuck St. Mary's, the game was more focused on "speed (and) spread out puck movement," he said. "So that was the biggest jump."

Teammate Morgan Nauss, also 16, may be sidelined with

a wrist injury at the moment, but leads Moose rookie blue-liners in points, with three goals and 10 assists in 24 games.

"At first, you just had to focus on moving the puck quicker," the Hammonds Plains native said. "But it only took me pre-season and maybe the first regular-season game ... and I started feeling comfortable."

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO

Nill looks to end T-Birds' drought

CIS football. Former Huskies bench boss lands with UBC

Blake Nill says he could be taking on the biggest challenge of his career.

The University of British Columbia Thunderbirds introduced Nill as the new head coach of their football team on Tuesday, less than 24 hours after he resigned from the same position with the Calgary Dinos.

"It was something that I thought about long and hard, but I was convinced in my discussions with the athletic department, with the backers, that it was time for UBC," Nill said at his introductory new conference. "They wanted to step up and they wanted to put their football team as the flagship and get them back on the map."

"I've always felt B.C. is

Nill's record

130-47

Canadian university football's coach of the year in 1999 with Saint Mary's, Blake Nill has a career regular-season and playoff record of 130-47. He was 6-2 with the Dinos in 2014 before losing to the Manitoba Bisons in the Hardy Cup.

rich with talent, the university is rich with tradition, and now it's just a matter of combining everything (and) changing the culture ... making sure the kids understand what it takes to be successful, and I think I'm capable of doing that."

Known for his ability to recruit, Nill might have his work cut out for him in the short term. UBC hasn't won a conference championship since winning the Vanier Cup in 1997 and is coming off a 2-6 campaign that cost head coach Scott Olson his job.

The Thunderbirds have

not had a winning season since 2004 and are a combined 24-56 over the last 10 years, but Nill said there is reason for optimism.

"I can honestly say this may be the most talent-laden team that I've taken over," he said. "I think (it's) more or less installing a new culture. Installing a culture of work ethic, of speed, of strength, of accountability."

"Once the kids realize they need to be accountable to themselves and their teammates, I think you'll see a change fairly quickly."

Nill spent the last nine seasons with the Dinos, leading them to six straight Hardy Cup titles as Canada West champions and three Vanier Cup appearances.

Prior to that, the native of Hanna, Alta., coached the Saint Mary's Huskies for eight years, making four trips to the Vanier Cup, including victories in 2001 and 2002.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Former Saint Mary's Huskies head coach Blake Nill led the Calgary Dinos to a 6-2 record this past season. He was named the new head coach of the UBC Thunderbirds on Tuesday. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Béliveau's widow moved to tears by Habs' tribute



Elise Béliveau salutes the crowd as she stands next to her husband Jean's empty seat at the Bell Centre in Montreal Tuesday night. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Bell Centre crowd stood and cheered for several minutes Tuesday night after a moving tribute to legendary captain Jean Béliveau ahead of the Montreal Canadiens game against the Vancouver Canucks.

A 15-minute pre-game ceremony in honour of Béliveau, one of the team's iconic players and personalities who died last week at 83, caused his widow Elise Couture Béliveau to alternately weep, pray and thrust out her arms in thanks to the crowd.

The scoreboard screen was focused through the ovation on her, standing at her seat beside her daughter Helene and granddaughters Magalie and Mylene.

A chronology of his life and hockey career in pictures was shown on the screen, and another video tribute was shown after players from both teams went onto the ice and lined up inside the blue-lines.

Then a long moment of silence was followed by an even longer ovation for Béliveau, who won 10 Stanley

Canucks at Canadiens

Tomas Plekanec scored the winner late in the third period to lead the Montreal Canadiens to a 3-1 victory over the visiting Vancouver Canucks on Tuesday.

The seat beside Béliveau's widow — three rows behind the Canadiens bench where he sat for nearly every home game — was left vacant, with his No. 4 on it.

The number four was also painted on the ice behind both nets.

A funeral mass is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon at Mary Queen of the World cathedral near the Bell Centre. Several stars of past Canadiens teams will take part in the proceedings. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Bernier stays hot against Flames

Jonathan Bernier made 32 saves and James van Riemsdyk scored the winner early in the second period as Toronto defeated Calgary 4-1 Tuesday, sending the Flames to their first back-to-back regulation losses this season.

Peter Holland opened the scoring for Toronto which got empty-net goals from Phil Kessel and Mike Santorelli. The Maple Leafs wrapped up a five-game homestand at 4-1-0 before 19,122 at the Air Canada Centre. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Raptors can't stop rolling Cavaliers

LeBron James scored 35 points, making the tiebreaking three-pointer with 48 seconds remaining, and the Cleveland Cavaliers rallied to beat the Toronto Raptors 105-101 on Tuesday night for their eighth straight win.

James' jumper from the top of the key gave Cleveland a 102-99 lead and tied him with Mark Price for the team record for three-pointers at 802.

Jonas Valanciunas and Terrence Ross each had 18 for Toronto.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB winter meetings

White Sox add two big arms

The Chicago White Sox are making the biggest moves at the winter meetings, trying to regain relevance in the AL Central.

Hours after reaching a \$46 million, four-year deal with closer David Robertson, Chicago acquired starting pitcher Jeff Samardzija from the Oakland Athletics as part of a six-player trade.

In Tuesday's other big swap, Arizona sent all-star catcher Miguel Montero to the Chicago Cubs for a pair of prospects.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Champions League

Liverpool done in by draw with Basel

Steven Gerrard's latest moment of inspiration failed to prevent Liverpool from dropping out of the Champions League on Tuesday, with Basel securing a 1-1 draw to advance to the knockout stage at the expense of the five-time champions.

Basel secured the point they required to advance in Group B, but only after hanging on against the Reds late 10-man onslaught instigated by their captain's 81st-minute equalizer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Martin Skrtel doubles over after a 1-1 draw with Switzerland's Basel FC that eliminated Liverpool from the Champions League on Tuesday night at Anfield. Scan the image with your Metro News app for a roundup of the rest of Tuesday's European action. PAUL ELLIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

2015 Subaru Legacy

- **Type.** Four-door, AWD midsize sedan
- **Engines.** 2.5-litre flat four (175 hp), 3.6-litre flat six (256)
- **Transmission.** Manual six-speed, automatic CVT
- **Price.** \$25,090 base, \$26,390 as tested

Market position

Competitor to mainstream sedans, but with the Subaru differentiators of AWD and horizontally opposed engine designs (a.k.a. flat or boxer). Traditionally appealed to slightly cultish customers willing to pay a premium for AWD and non-flashy looks. Subaru is now trying to make Legacy appeal to a larger customer base.

Points

- Legacy just named Best New Family Car Under \$30,000 by the Automotive Journalists Association of Canada.
- Same footprint as previous model, with the same engines, but increased space and fuel economy, aided by new aerodynamic styling, electric power steering, and active front grille shutters.
- The only vehicle in its class with standard full-time AWD.



The new cabin is roomy — front and back — and much quieter.

Safety features

- Optional EyeSight system includes adaptive cruise control, pre-collision braking and throttle control, and lane sway and departure warning.
- AWD system can apply brake pressure to assist handling on corners.
- Optional steering-responsive fog lights, and rear/side vehicle detection system.

Less quirky, more appealing

PHOTOS: MIKE GOETZ



Review. Subaru Legacy is now refined, roomy and quiet, trading its former niche status for a mainstream audience

MIKE
GOETZ
drive@metronews.ca

Nobody in the automotive world works a niche better than Subaru. Stuff all-wheel drive and a boxer engine into any vehicle format and presto! You've got yourself a Subaru, and a smallish but dedicated group of customers who will gladly partake, because they like being different, and they really like AWD.

But living in a niche can wear on you. They're small and cramped, and with poor ventilation and soundproofing — you can hear the crowds in the bigger suites laughing it up all hours in the morning.

So Subaru did the only sens-

ible thing when it came time to overhaul the Legacy sedan for 2015. It angled it more toward the sweet spot of the midsize sedan market, where huge crowds of North American buyers shop. The result is great midsize sedan, which looks and feels like more like the new Camry than the previous Legacy.

In fact, a Legacy 2.5i model was just named AJAC's Best New Family Car Under \$30,000, a category that included the new Toyota Camry and the new Chrysler 200. Those two were the match of Legacy in pretty much every category, except safety. Some of Legacy's high safety score was achieved by the optional Eyesight package, which includes adaptive cruise control and pre-collision braking and throttle control.

My base 2.5i tester didn't have those features, but did include a rear-view camera, cushion airbags and a standard AWD system that can apply brake pressure to the inside front wheel to assist cornering.



The Legacy's interior decor and features now match anything in its class.

Subaru was known for not sweating the interior decor and features as much as their powertrain and AWD systems, but the Legacy's new cabin matches anything in its class. The new interface with a 6.2-inch touchscreen is not too complicated, and includes knobs and buttons for major functions. The (finally) up-to-date audio system offers satellite radio, auxiliary input, steering-wheel controls, and

Bluetooth for smartphones and streaming audio. Nice.

The cabin is also roomy — front and back — and offers a level of quiet not previously associated with Subaru. Liquid-filled engine mounts, an acoustic windshield, lots of sound insulation, and a more aerodynamic body shape all contribute to the increased serenity.

That body shape is a bit generic to these eyes, and not one that will stand out in a

Compare



1 Ford Fusion SE AWD
Base price: \$31,399
Only other midsize AWD sedan not from a premium brand.



2 Toyota Camry
Base price: \$25,370
Dependable and comfy, now with a bit more attitude.



3 Chrysler 200
Base price: \$24,190
All-new and aggressively priced.

crowded parking lot. All part of that plan to blend in more, I guess.

The 175-hp engine and CVT offer up no surprises, just thoroughly civilized propulsion entirely in keeping with the expectations of this mainstream segment. In combination with the new electric steering, which is precise but feels somewhat disconnected from the road, you have a laid-back but sorted-out driving experience that should appeal to easygoing drivers and their families.

The Legacy is much closer to its rivals than ever before, which is good for Subaru and good for lots of buyers, but maybe just a tiny bit sad for those of us who don't want diversification and quirkiness to completely disappear.

5
DRIVE

Drivers, dreamers and speed demons

For the F1 Fanatic:
Canadian Grand Prix weekend pass

Daniel Ricciardo started sixth on the grid in this year's edition of Montreal's most pulse-pounding weekend. The Australian took the first checkered flag of his F1 career after slipping past Sergio Pérez and Nico Rosberg in the closing laps.

For \$633, you can watch Ricciardo defend his title next June, with a weekend pass to the optimum sight-lines afforded by Grandstand 1, or opt for the \$577 Pole Position Package for different vantage points during the practice and qualifying sessions, before settling back into Grandstand 1 on race day.

For details, go to grandprixmontreal.com.



Gift guide. Lusting for a Lambo but budgeted for a bicycle? We can help

**MIKE
DOJC**
drive@metronews.ca

Car peeps are generally an easy group to shop for. In a pinch, plunk a few Armor All products into a basket, toss in a tool set, add a bow, and park that bad boy under the tree.

But here are some hints for those who want to go the extra mile and fine-tune their

gifts to the various whims of the auto-obsessive.

Assuming you can't afford this bright orange, gull-winged Lamborghini Aventador — which would look good in anyone's driveway, but starts at \$485,000 — here are some more affordable suggestions for those on your list who think four wheels are way better than two.

For the Toy Tinkerer: LEGO DeLorean Time Machine

Revisit those halcyon days when you were young and naive enough to believe a futuristic-looking car that blazed to 88 mph could bend the fabric of the space-time continuum. The automotive star of *Back to the Future* has been shrunk into a five-inch, 401-piece Lego kit (\$45), all decked out with foldable wheels, gull-wing doors that open and shut, and, of course, a flux capacitor. It even comes with mini figures of Marty McFly and Doc.



For the Lambo Lover: Lamborghini: 100 Years of Innovation in Half the Time

Ferruccio Lamborghini's low-slung, high-powered dream machines have left motorists weak-kneed ever since the 350GT roared to life in the early 1960s. The alluring marque kept it coming with icon after icon. This coffee table book (\$75) chronicles the sinuous journey with more than 200 spectacular photos detailing every model the raging bull badge has produced.

[illegible]



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GT model shown



GT model shown



GT model shown

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*To learn more about the Mazda Unlimited Warranty, go to mazdaunlimited.ca. †0% APR Purchase Financing is available on select new 2015 Mazda models. Terms vary by model. Based on a representative agreement using an offered pricing of \$24,490 (includes \$500 Holiday Bonus) for the new 2015 CX-5 GX (NVXK65AA00) with a financed amount of \$25,000, the cost of borrowing for a 48-month term is \$0, monthly payment is \$520.83, total finance obligation is \$25,000. ▼With the cash purchase, lease or finance of a new 2015 CX-5/2015 Mazda6 model a \$500/\$1,000 Holiday Bonus will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Offers valid December 2, 2014 - January 2, 2015. †Offer available on retail leases of new 2015 Mazda3 GX (D4XK65AA00)/2015 Mazda6 GX (G4XL65AA00)/2015 CX-5 GX (NVXK65AA00) with a lease APR of 2.49%/1.99%/1.99% and bi-weekly payments of \$89/\$130/\$137 for 60/60/60 months, the total lease obligation is \$11,635/\$16,941/\$17,834, including down payment of \$0/\$0/\$0. As shown, Offered Pricing for new 2015 Mazda3 GT (D4TL65AA00)/2015 Mazda6 GT (G4TL65AA00)/2015 CX-5 GT (NXTL85AA00) with a lease APR of 2.49%/1.99%/1.99% and bi-weekly payments of \$151/\$179/\$193 for 60/60/60 months, the total lease obligation is \$19,665/\$23,248/\$25,135, including down payment of \$0/\$0/\$0. Lease payments include freight and P.D.E. of \$1,695/\$1,695/\$1,895. 20,000 km per year mileage allowance applies; if exceeded, additional 8¢ per km applies. Offers exclude PST/GST/HST. Offered leasing available to retail customers only. Licence, insurance, taxes and down payment (where applicable) are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Offers valid December 2, 2014 - January 2, 2015, while supplies last. Lease and finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or see your dealer for complete details.

Top up all the fluids, not just the gas tank

Driving Force. From engine and transmission oils to anti-freeze to windshield washer, your car is filled with liquids

JIL
MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Just as your body needs fluids to stay healthy, so does your car. Gasoline may seem to be the most important one, but there are some that are just as vital to the car's health, and others that can help with your safety.

"Make sure when you're getting your car prepped for winter that you've topped up your fluids," says Kevin

McNamara, category business manager of automotive fluids for Canadian Tire. "Even when it's cold outside, your engine can overheat if fluids aren't moving through it."

Oil is vital to your car's health, since it lubricates the moving parts inside the engine and also helps dissipate some of the excess

heat it creates. Without oil, an engine could be irreparably damaged in less than a minute.

The oil should be changed and the oil filter replaced at the intervals recommended by the auto manufacturer.

In between changes, it's a good idea to occasionally check the oil level, especially on an older car. Top it up

if necessary, but don't overfill it, since too much oil can also be harmful.

Synthetic oil is a good (if initially more expensive) choice, not just because it lasts longer and needs to be changed less often, but also because its microscopic particles are more uniform and can do a better job of lubrication than conventional oil.

Engine coolant is commonly known as anti-freeze because its freezing point is well below that of plain water. It absorbs heat from the engine and then flows into the radiator, where it is cooled and sent back out to the engine in a continuous loop.

This fluid should be checked at least twice a year with a coolant tester to be sure it's still able to withstand cold temperatures. A technician can do this for you, but if you do it yourself, check it only from the coolant reservoir, never by opening the radiator cap.

You should always carry a spare jug of washer fluid and keep the reservoir filled, especially if you do a lot of highway driving, where it can be dangerous to pull over and fill it. You can

Fluid facts

- If your locks freeze, use lock de-icer; never warm water. Always keep the de-icer bottle with you, not stored in the glovebox.
- A car's "curb weight" is the weight of the vehicle plus all of its fluids, including a full tank of fuel.
- Other fluids your car may contain include transmission oil, power steering fluid, differential oil, brake fluid, and battery electrolyte.

go through it quickly when other vehicles splash salt up from the road, which quickly dries to an opaque crust.

All washer fluid will clean away the grime, but look for all-season or winter-specific options.

"Use fluid with a temperature rating for your province," McNamara explains.

"If you use summer fluid, it could freeze in the reservoir and potentially damage it."



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Topping up the engine oil is easy, but overfilling it can be almost as harmful as having too little oil. CONTRIBUTED



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CANADA'S FAVOURITE CROSSOVER⁶

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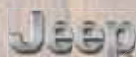
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Sporty hatch 'perfect size' for many

Second gear.

2009 to 2014
Toyota Matrix

JUSTIN
PRITCHARD

drive@metronews.ca

Toyota's Canadian-built Matrix was built to answer the call of drivers looking for fuel efficiency, safety, adaptability and a generous space-to-price ratio, all wrapped up in a sporty-looking, easy-to-drive package.

Feature content in the five-door hatch included steering-wheel audio controls, tilt steering, MP3 audio capability and a full suite of safety systems.

Common Issues

Some owners have reported faster-than-expected wear of consumable parts, like tires and brakes, so make sure they are in good condition.

Other owners have reported issues with premature wear of CV-joint boots, which keep nasty road stuff out of the joint. Ask a mechanic to check the boots.

Less-than-ideal durability from interior and exterior finishes is also noted. Inter-

ior plastics are said to scratch easily, so if the cabin looks more beat up than its age warrants, mention it during your price negotiations.

In 2009 models, some owners reported heavy oil consumption by the 2.4-litre engine, which is said to be caused by a block and/or piston-ring defect.

Some dealers have replaced piston rings and even engine blocks as a solution, under warranty. Although this issue wasn't rampant, anyone considering a 2009 Matrix with the larger engine should check with a mechanic first. Or opt for a 2010 or newer model, which doesn't seem to suffer from the problem.

On cars with the manual transmission, any occasional difficulty shifting into reverse is likely caused by the design of the transmission. Many owners simply accept it, and solve it by shifting to another gear and then trying reverse again.

Confirm proper operation of all window switches, as some owners say they become sticky and seize over time. Other nitpicky gripes include interior squeaks and rattles, and a reduction in air conditioner performance that can usually be fixed by cleaning out the condenser.



CONTRIBUTED

What owners like



Owners rave about the on-board space, sporty looks, good fuel mileage and overall blend of performance, efficiency and utility. The words "perfect size" come up fairly frequently in owner reviews.

What owners dislike



Common gripes include larger-than-expected blind spots, fussy iPod integration, and not quite enough power for hilly terrain, especially with the automatic.

Engines



Look for a 1.8-L, 130-hp four-cylinder on most models, with a 2.4-L, 160-hp unit available on higher-end units. All-wheel drive was available, as were manual and automatic transmissions.

The verdict

A close-to-stock Toyota Matrix, with a thumbs-up from your mechanic, should offer above-average reliability, space and fuel economy for years to come.

Service Directory To advertise contact 421-5824

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2BR \$719
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Stuck on 12 Across?
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See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

Aries

March 21 - April 20

If you dream about moving up in the world there is a chance that it might happen this week. At the very least you will lay the foundations for future success.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

The restrictions you have been labouring under in recent days will fade over the next 24 hours. Your attitude will be more positive too, giving you a greater sense of freedom.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Stick to the facts today, especially when dealing with money. If you are tempted to make a decision for sentimental reasons it could easily backfire.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Today you will find it easier to be more outgoing and sociable and that's good because you have been a bit too self-obsessed of late. You're allowed to have fun — and look for love.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You have many good ideas but how many will amount to anything? If you are not sure which ones have selling potential ask someone who is likely to know.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

All things are possible for you now, Virgo, so set your sights high and don't stop until you have reached your goal. You will be amazed how easily things come to you.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Cosmic activity in one of the more sensitive areas of your chart could make you more emotional than usual but maybe that's no bad thing.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

What you say today will have far-reaching effects for months to come, so think before you speak and strive to be positive.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Turn your attention to financial matters. You may have spent a lot recently and with values planet Venus moving into the money area of your chart you must find ways to save.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

The entry of love planet Venus into your sign today means you can expect good news concerning a long-term relationship. Difficulties will ease over the next few days.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

For someone who is confident you seem thin-skinned right now. Could it be because you realize that criticisms being leveled at you are true? Why not just admit you were wrong?

Pisces

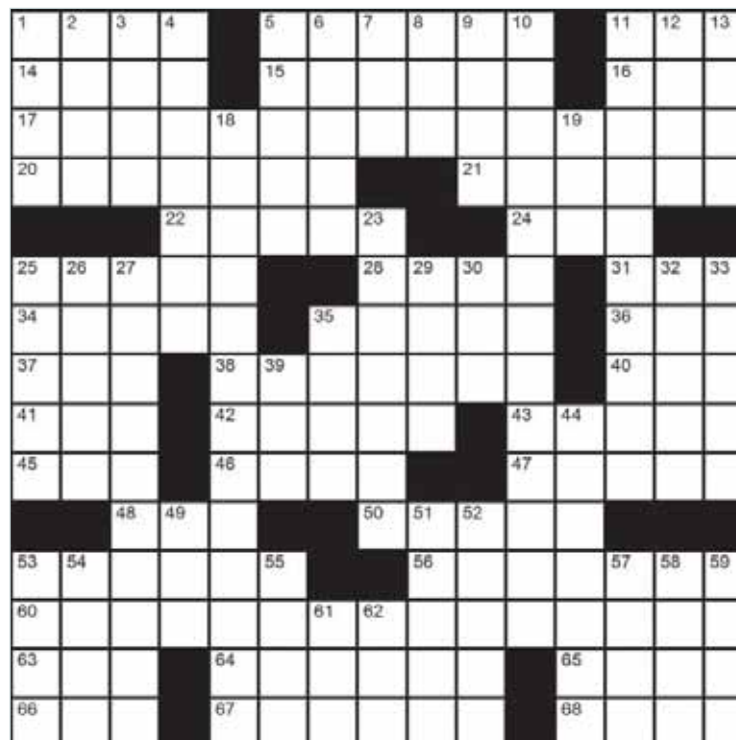
Feb. 20 - March 20

Put your worries behind you and have fun with your friends. Some will say you're neglecting your responsibilities but you can ignore them. You need to take a break.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

Across

1. Bugs Bunny's foe Elmer
5. Duty
11. Neil Young's "Old"
14. "Dies ___": Latin hymn
15. Shots _____ (Hockey statistics)
16. Rock-___ (Classic jukebox company)
17. "___": Tragically Hip tune with the line "I stole this from a hockey card..."
20. Bruce Springsteen & The ___ Band
21. First season player
22. Assumed name
24. Nero's 511
25. Language of Sri Lanka
28. VIP's vehicle
31. Sports org.
34. John Hersey's bell town
35. Rice dish
36. "Gosh."
37. Marcel Marceau's clown
38. Demolishing one
40. Zippy dance
41. Tubular fish
42. Cloistered chaps
43. #41-Across ...in sushi bars
45. Regret
46. ___ Reader (Alternative press magazine)
47. Charles of "Gaslight" (1944)
48. French possessive



50. Little Richard's "___ Up"
53. Certain chambers
56. Feminist Gloria
60. Canadian painter from Montreal (b.1906 - d.1993) ...her works include Harbour and Milkweed: 3 wds.

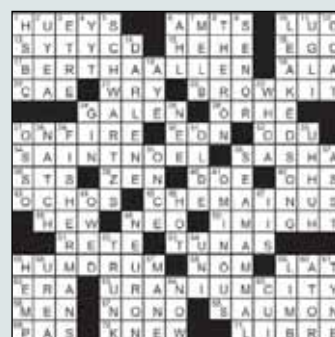
Down

1. ___ and drum (Marching band duo)
2. Mr. Geller's
3. Music duo, ___ Punk
4. Get off the choo-choo
5. Moviedom's Marisa
6. Ms. Ekberg
7. "Pretty Woman"

- (1990) actor ...his initials-sharers
8. Cyclades island
9. Impartial
10. As per #11-Down... bit of Lorde's song "Yellow Flicker Beat": "My blood is a ___ ___, precious stones..."

11. "The Hunger Games: ___ - Part 1" (2014)
12. Jai ___
13. Scruff
18. Product by American food brand French's: 2 wds.
19. Night: Latin
23. More glossy
25. Southern Alberta town
26. "Bon voyage!"
27. Quebec is the world's biggest producer of what?: 2 wds.
29. Classes
30. Ms. West
32. Neutral tone
33. Norse sea god
35. Philadelphia's puny place
39. Decay
44. Posters
49. Prefix with 'dermis'
51. Small island
52. Prefix meaning 'feather'
53. RCN rank
54. Uncommon, in Latin
55. Snick-or-___
57. Canadian painter Ms. Collyer (b.1898 - d.1979)
58. Collar type
59. ___. Helens, Wash.
61. Volkswagen slogan, ___ Auto.
62. 'I love', in Latin

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers



Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	2	9	7	6	4	3	5	1
4	5	7	1	2	3	8	9	6
3	1	6	9	8	5	2	4	7
5	6	2	4	9	8	1	7	3
7	8	3	2	5	1	4	6	9
9	4	1	6	3	7	5	8	2
2	7	4	8	1	9	6	3	5
6	3	8	5	7	2	9	1	4
1	9	5	3	4	6	7	2	8

	3	5				2	8	
4			8		3			7
			7					9
			2					1
			4					5
		1				9		
	9					6		
8					1			
6	7	2	9		8	1	4	3

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